Modern Times,

OR, THE

ADVENTURES

OF

GABRIEL OUTCAST.

VOL. III.

Modern Times,

OR, THE

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OF

GABRIEL OUTCAST.

SUPPOSED TO BE

WRITTEN BY HIMSELF.

IN IMITATION OF GIL BLAS.

QUI CAPIT, ILLE FACIT. *Prov.*

IN THREE VOLUMES.

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CHAPTER I.

On the Impoſition of Foreigners. Meets with Miſs Wildman. Marries her.

INO ſooner landed at Calais, but I found my heart at eaſe, and that weight upon my ſpirits, which had for ſome time oppreſſed me, inſtantly taken off. So neceſſary an ingredient is conſcious rectitude to a man's happineſs! I ſpoke little or no French, though I underſtood it tolerably well, of courſe was obliged to put up at Engliſh houſes, where they were exceedingly extortionate. You no ſooner

arrive in Calais harbour, than the waiters from the different hotels or inns are ready to tear the clothes off your back, in order to prevail on you to go to the houſe to which they belong, and no ſooner are you ſafely lodged within their houſe, but they ſeem indifferent whether they ſee you after that time or not. I remember I put up at the Table Royal, and among other unreaſonable charges, was thirty-ſix ſols, or near nineteen pence of our money for reading an Engliſh newſpaper; and on my remonſtrating againſt the charge, they gave me to underſtand, that though I wore the appearance of a gentleman, I did not act like one. The comparative cheapneſs of wines and proviſions in this part of the world, to what it is with us, leads Engliſh travellers to ſpend their money freely, and this ſeeming liberality has ſpoiled the publicans upon all their roads;

roads; and where they will charge a native but one livre (that is, ten-pence halfpenny), they will make an Engliſhman pay three. I was long enough abroad to find all this out, and therefore made a point of going to houſes unaccuſtomed to receive the Engliſh; where if I did not dine according to our mode of eating, I had the ſatisfaction to have my dinner at one third of the price. When at Dunkirk, in my way to Bruges, I had occaſion for ſome ſmall money, and took the liberty to aſk the maſter of a toy-ſhop (a Jew) to change me a guinea. He looked at it, examined it, and tried to bend it between his teeth, ſaying, "I believe "it is very gude goles;" then rubbing the edge of it againſt the lining of the breaſt of his coat, examined the edge, and rubbed it again; and having done this two or three times, he reaches his ſcales, ſaying, "I vili

" veigh it;" and, having weighed it, he returned it to me, with—" It vants " eighteen-pence of veight, but dere " is a gentlemans over the vay," recommending me to another Jew, " that takes loit moanies." To this *gentleman* I applied; and in his hands the guinea went through the ſame proceſs, and was told again it was very gude goles, but vanted dree ſhillings of veight. In ſhort, I diſcovered, that, within the breaſt of their coats, theſe ſcoundrels had raſps, with pockets beneath, and that every time the guinea underwent a rubbing, it loſt ſixpence in value; but the difficulties I had met with had made me a philoſopher, and as to puniſh thoſe fellows would coſt me both time and money, I pocketed the injury, and contented myſelf with calling him and his brother Jew a couple of infamous raſcals. Indeed, I found the diſpoſition of taking an advantage

vantage of foreigners ſo general, that travelling in company with ſome German officers in the ſervice of the French, they requeſted me to let *them* ſettle the bills as they paſſed, otherwiſe very unreaſonable charges would be made; this I cheerfully acquieſced with; but diſcovered I derived no advantage from their cautious conduct; for I was ſufficiently well acquainted with their money to know, that, in ſettling my quota of the ſum expended, they took care to make me pay double what they did themſelves, and of courſe they paid leſs than they would have done had I not been of the party. It was a matter I found a difficulty of yielding to; but, as I did not care to enter into a diſpute, in which I might come off the worſt, I ſubmitted for the little time I was with them to the impoſition; and you will always find this the wiſer ſtep. In

whatever part of the world you are, go as quietly through it as you can, and if you chance to ſtumble over a ſtone, don't quarrel with it, but purſue your way, and rejoice that it did not break your leg.

Being abroad in a foreign country without recommendation, and without any intention of continuing long, I thought of little but looking about me and ſeeing what naturally preſented itſelf to my view. I wandered from Dunkirk to Bruges, and from Bruges to Ghent; and being one Sunday morning at the chapel of the convent of the Rich Dames in that city, during high maſs, I heard a ſhriek in the gallery among the nuns, which rather diſturbed the ceremony for the moment; but as all was ſoon quiet again, I took no farther notice of it.

About nine o'clock in the evening, however, as I was ſitting down to ſupper,

per, at the St. Sebaſtian, in this town, the maſter of the hotel came into the room, and aſked me if my name was not *Outcaſt*; if it was, a man below had a letter for me. The novelty of the circumſtance, and a conſciouſneſs that I had no acquaintance that could know me in my preſent garb, for I was very ſmartly dreſſed, at firſt alarmed me; but as I had done no wrong, I had not much to dread. Having, therefore, ordered the perſon to be ſent up ſtairs, I enquired from whom he came. "If you are an Engliſh gen-"tleman," replied he, "and your "name Gabriel Outcaſt, that letter is "for you; and if you will trouble "yourſelf to look into it, you will "ſoon learn from whence it comes." The meſſenger was a Fleming, but ſpoke Engliſh tolerably well. I broke open the ſeal, and the following were the contents in Engliſh.

" SIR,

" The writer of this letter is a fe-
" male, in the year of her noviciate,
" at the convent of the Rich Dames.
" If your name be Gabriel Outcaſt,
" and from London, I am right in my
" addreſs, and wiſh for an interview.
" Come to the grates of that convent,
" to-morrow at eleven; enquire for
" ſiſter Agatha, paſs for her kinſman,
" and you will ſee one probably whom
" you may *wiſh* to ſee."

On reading this letter, I aſked the man who the perſon was that delivered that letter to him. He told me the portereſs at the Rich Dames, and that his orders were, to go to every hotel in the city, till he found me; he had been at one or two, and he deemed himſelf fortunate in meeting with me as he did.

I called for pen and ink, and wrote as follows:

" The

" The letter from the female at the
" Rich Dames has luckily reached the
" perſon to whom it was addreſſed,
" and will be punctually attended to.

" Nine o'clock, St. Sebaſtian's."

Having underſtood Flanders, by all accounts that I had received, to be a country of intrigue, I concluded this to be a buſineſs of the ſame kind. However, I impatiently waited for the hour of aſſignation at the Rich Dames, and was there by the time the clock ſtruck eleven. I enquired for ſiſter Agatha, and was ſhewn up into a parlour where I had not been five minutes, before I was, to my great aſtoniſhment, tranſported with the ſight of my dear Miſs Wildman, who ſeemed as much confuſed as myſelf, and was unable to utter a word. She put her hand through the grate, on which I imprinted a thouſand kiſſes; and when I was

able to ſpeak, I told her, the happineſs of meeting her where I ſo little expected to ſee her, totally overcame me. She ſaid ſhe was no leſs rejoiced on her part; that ſhe had encountered a deal of trouble on my account; that ſhe was anxious to know where I had been, and how I was circumſtanced, and the reaſon ſhe had never heard from me: in ſhort, ſhe wiſhed to ſay a thouſand things to me, which her ſituation prevented, but which ſhe hoped I would give her ſome opportunity of doing. I ſhewed her the ring, which, in her gracious moments, ſhe had been pleaſed to give me, declared it had never been off my finger, and that for the many years I had loſt ſight of her, ſhe had ever been in my thoughts. I fixed my eyes on her during theſe declarations, and ſaw the lovely tears trickle faſt down her cheeks, and was ſenſible of all her emotions.

emotions. She appeared as amiable in my eyes as ever; and if her monaſtic dreſs made any alteration in her form, it was that of rendering her far more lovely. I gave her to underſtand, that I was ſtill a ſingle man, and as much attached to her as ever, and that I dreaded to hear her ſtory, leſt the chapter of accidents ſhould have placed her beyond my reach. When ſhe had recovered herſelf, ſhe told me ſhe was not yet profeſſed, of courſe not ſequeſtered for life; that her endeavouring to ſearch me out, was a teſt of the ſtate of her mind; and that on a preſumption ſhe ſhould find me as honourable as ever, ſhe had written a few lines, which ſhe would ſubmit to my conſideration, on my return to my lodgings: that the watchful eyes of the ladies in that houſe made it neceſſary ſhe ſhould not continue long at the grates; but that if I would excuſe her leaving me

ſo abruptly, ſhe would be happy to give me a ſecond meeting the next morning, at the ſame hour, and at the ſame place. Unwilling as I was to part with her, I was forced to ſubmit. She, however, gave me her hand again to kiſs, and I retired with my heart in my mouth, unable to utter another word.

I was no ſooner without the walls of the convent, than I broke open the ſeal, and found the contents of her letter as follows:

" MY DEAR GABRIEL,

" You cannot have forgotten our " mutual vows of attachment. Though " your heart may be eſtranged in " courſe of time from me, mine is as " true as ever. Many an unhappy " hour have I ſuffered, to preſerve my " vow inviolable, and many a diſtreſs " have I experienced on your account.

" What

" What could have prevented your
" writing to me as you promiſed? Or
" is it in the nature of men to trifle
" with us women? Having refuſed to
" marry a gentleman of my father's
" recommending, is the occaſion of
" my being here, where, had I not
" chanced to have ſeen you in the cha-
" pel on Sunday laſt, I ſhould ere
" long have taken the veil; but now
" all my former love is awakened,
" and all my fond expectations re-
" newed. Gueſs my ſurprize at firſt
" ſeeing you where I did.——I knew
" you inſtantly, and the ſurprize over-
" came me. I have unfortunately loſt
" my mother, and by her death an
" eſtate of three hundred pounds a
" year devolves to me; but my father
" withholds it from me, and it is by
" his injunctions that I am in this con-
" vent. Far from being inclined to a
" monaſtic life, I wiſh to be out of it,

" and

" and if you are in any ſituation to
" maintain me, and will take me from
" it, I will throw myſelf under your
" protection, and wait the reſult of
" better fortune to befriend your diſ-
" treſſed

" ELIZA WILDMAN."

Enraptured with the contents of this letter, I was impatient for a ſecond interview. The next morning I ſaw her again, opened my whole heart to her, made her acquainted with my ſituation, and concerted means to get her off. I told her, if ſhe would direct me how to act, I would implicitly follow her directions; that I would take the matrimonial vow the firſt opportunity that offered, according to the ritual of the Roman church, and would ratify it at the altar of our own, as ſoon as I ſet foot in England. We then entered on the mode of her eſcape,

eſcape, and the plan ſhe pointed out was this: "Here is," ſays ſhe, "in "wax, an impreſſion of the garden "key, which was accidentally left in "the door by ſome workmen, who "are now within the convent, and "which I found means to procure; "get one made by it, and alſo ſuch "neceſſary articles of dreſs as I have "ſet down in this paper, and when all "things are prepared, I will meet you "at the garden gate, an hour before "matins, on any morning you ſhall "appoint." I approved her plan, and put it immediately into execution. A few days completed the whole; and having ordered a carriage to wait at the corner of the ſtreet adjoining the convent, about two o'clock one morning, according to appointment, when all was huſhed and quiet, I met her at the garden gate, threw a long cloak and hood over her, locked the gate

again, to prevent ſuſpicion, and conducted her to the chaiſe, in which we made the beſt of our way to Liſle, a town in French Flanders, and out of the reach of the police of Brabant. We were got ſome miles from Ghent, before I could prevail on her to ſpeak to me; at laſt, ſhe looked round upon me, gave me her hand, and with a ſigh exclaimed,—"How "raſhly, my dear Gabriel, do young "women act! I fear you will your-"ſelf deſpiſe me for my conduct!" I ſoon quieted her on that head, aſſured her it was the beſt proof of her affection ſhe could give me, and that I truſted ſhe would have no cauſe to repent it.——We met with no interruption on the road, and by nine o'clock in the morning found ourſelves at Liſle. As ſoon as we alighted at the Auberge, I ſent for the miſtreſs of the houſe, made her a confidante in the

the affair; and whilſt my Eliza was dreſſing, deſired a prieſt might be ſent for, in order to diſcharge my conſcience. An hour and a half did the buſineſs; her trunk was opened, and the maitreſſe d'hotel aſſiſted at her toilette. The dreſs ſhe had directed was a white luteſtring, with a pale yellow petticoat; and ſo faſhionably was it made, ſo well put on, and her head ſo elegantly decorated, that I was more in love with her than ever. The whole family was preſent at the ceremony of our eſpouſals, and I was bleſſed with the richeſt gift, in my opinion, which heaven had to give.

After dinner we purſued our way to St. Omer's, where I took a lodging, and ſpent two months in an uninterrupted ſtate of happineſs. As we heard nothing from Ghent, and were not enquired after, I apprehend it was never known what route we took.

Having

Having given my Eliza a faithful detail of my adventures, which ſhe acknowledged were the moſt extraordinary ſhe had heard of, in ſo ſmall a ſpace of time; at my requeſt, one afternoon, ſhe gave the following account of herſelf.

CHAP. II.

Miſs Wildman relates her Story. Our Author returns to London. A Dialogue between him and a Placemonger.

" THE accident that happened at
" our houſe filled the whole fa-
" mily with confuſion; but my fa-
" ther's receipt of your letter unveiled
" the myſtery. Our porter, who was
" only ſtunned with the blow you
" gave him, ſoon recovered; and on
" being taken before a magiſtrate,
" confeſſed that he had been bribed by
" an agent of Lord B—— to aſſiſt in
" ſeizing you, in order to ſend you on
" board a ſhip, and convey you to
" ſome diſtant place, from whence
" you might not return. He was
" com-

" committed till ſuch time as the co-
" roner had ſat on the man you killed,
" but the inqueſt having brought in
" their verdict *killed in ſelf-defence*;
" and you not being found to proſe-
" cute, he was diſcharged. My fa-
" ther, however, took him into the
" houſe no more; and to do him juſ-
" tice, was very anxious to have all
" the parties puniſhed. He valued
" you for the good office you had
" done his daughter, and was very
" deſirous of revenging your cauſe.

" The affair, however, was ſoon
" forgotten; and as you was not to
" be heard of, Lord B. wiſhed for
" leave to renew his addreſſes. You
" are acquainted with my ſentiments
" on that ſubject, and my father was
" no leſs averſe to it: he endeavoured
" to make it appear, that his raſhneſs
" was a proof of the ſtrong affection
" he bore me; but it was liſtened to

" by

" by neither of us: my mother com-
" mended my determination, and my
" father, as the propoſed ſettlements
" could not be made, was not to be
" brought over. Lord B. however,
" was importunate, and his viſits,
" though unwelcome, were ſo fre-
" quent at our houſe, that my father
" thought proper to retire to his ſeat
" in the north; where, in a ſhort
" time after, my mother died; by
" whoſe death, as I told you, I am en-
" titled to an eſtate of three hundred
" pounds a year, but which my father
" has never given me the poſſeſſion of.

" We had not been two years in the
" country, before a young gentleman,
" a Roman Catholic, of a good fa-
" mily, and conſiderable eſtate, then
" on a viſit to a Baronet in our neigh-
" bourhood, thought proper to pay his
" addreſſes to me, which I politely,
" but peremptorily declined. Not diſ-
" couraged,

" couraged, however, by this, he pre-
" ferred his ſuit to my father, and
" brought him over to his cauſe.
' Eliza,' ſaid my father, one day to
" me, whilſt at breakfaſt, ' heaven
' has thought proper to deprive me of
' your mother, and, according to the
' courſe of nature, it cannot be long
' before I follow her. I have no at-
' tachment to this world but you;
' and could I ſee you reſpectably and
' happily ſettled, I ſhould not care
' how ſoon I left it. The gentleman
' you have ſeen is a young man of
' good family, and of conſiderable
' landed property; he is univerſally
' eſteemed by all who know him, and
' an alliance with him would give me
' great pleaſure. He has made me
' very honourable propoſals of mar-
' riage for you, and I think you can-
' not do better than receive him.
' With reſpect to ſettlements, he has

' offered

" offered a *carte blanche*, and you may
" make what terms you think proper."

" I told him, that not only duty,
" but gratitude, would lead me to pay
" every proper attention to his recom-
" mendation, particularly in a caſe
" where I was convinced he ſtudied
" only my happineſs; that under this
" idea, I flattered myſelf he would
" leave me miſtreſs of my own actions,
" eſpecially in a matter that ſo nearly
" concerned me; that ſorry as I was,
" not to acquieſce with him, I muſt
" take the liberty of putting a negative
" upon the propoſal; for that I had
" been ſo ſickened of matrimony upon
" a former occaſion, that I muſt be
" altered in my nature before I could
" liſten to a ſecond propoſal; that I
" was very well contented with my
" preſent ſituation, and wiſhed for no
" change, and that if it pleaſed Provi-
" dence to remove him from me, I

" truſted

" truſted I ſhould have ſufficient to
" ſupport me to the utmoſt of my am-
" bition.

" It would be idle to recount to you
" the long debate that was held be-
" tween us upon this ſubject. On his
" part, it was carried on with warmth;
" but I was reſolved to keep my en-
" gagement with you, conceiving that
" ſome accident had prevented my
" hearing from you; for the letters
" you ſay you wrote never reached
" me, owing, probably, to our re-
" moval from London. When my fa-
" ther found me determined not to
" liſten to this propoſal, he became
" exaſperated, and deprived me of al-
" moſt every indulgence. In ſhort,
" not to tire you out with accounts
" that would be irkſome to you to
" hear, and diſtreſſing for me to tell;
" he inſiſted on it, that I ſhould not
" live with him, but retire to a con-

" vent,

" vent, and take the veil; for he " would ſooner ſee me in my coffin, " than that I ſhould do any thing to " degrade his family. No intreaties, " no prayers of mine could turn him " from his purpoſe; my life was " grown a burthen to me; I deſpaired " of hearing any more from you, and, " of courſe, ſubmitted to his diſpoſal " of me; and I believe, as averſe as " I found myſelf to a ſequeſtered life, " had chance not thrown you in my " way, I ſhould have been prevailed " on by the ladies in the houſe where " I was, and, at the end of my no- " viceſhip, have taken the veil."

I had now been three months abroad; and as the matter had blown over, for which I left England, and the miniſtry was changed, I conceived there could be no danger in returning, and accordingly quitted St. Omer's, and ſet off for London.

When we reached London, till we could get a lodging, we put up at one of thoſe taverns called hotels, where, under a falſe idea of furniſhing better accommodations than is to be met with at inns, they contrive to pick the pockets of their gueſts. My plan of operations was to return to the profeſſion of an author, which I conceived not only to be the moſt lucrative I could purſue, but the moſt reſpectable, truſting to Providence for future expectancies; but ſeeing in one of the newſpapers an advertiſement that ſtruck me, from a man who advertiſed places under government to be diſpoſed of; with the earlieſt intelligence of vacancies in all departments; and being in poſſeſſion of a little money, I was willing firſt to try what I could do here; I accordingly waited on Provider the place-monger (for that was the advertiſer's name), and the following was,

as

as near as I can recollect, the dialogue that paſſed between us.

Author. "I think, Sir, your name "is—Provider?"

Provider. "At your ſervice, Sir."

Author. "A dealer in——places?"

Provider. "I have it in my power "to accommodate gentlemen in that "way."

Author. "What places have you "vacant? I wiſh to be a purchaſer of "ſome eaſy genteel employ about the "king."

Provider. "Oh, Sir, we have al-"ways ſuch things dropping; even "from a turn-ſpit, to a Lord of the "Treaſury.—What is your profeſſion, "Sir, and of what country are you?"

Author. "I am an author, and an "Engliſhman."

Provider. "An author!—and an "Engliſhman!—Gad ſo; that's a little "awkward

" awkward—I fear I ſhall find a dif-
" ficulty in ſuiting you; for the court
" has a natural averſion to men of li-
" terature, and to ſuch as are not born
" on the other ſide the Tweed. There
" was a time when reading was in
" faſhion, and our great men looked a
" little beyond the line of life in which
" they walked; but 'tis the reverſe
" now; we wiſh for no information
" beyond ourſelves, and wilfully ſhut
" our eyes and ears to every thing
" that is doing without the palace-
" gates. A learned man at St. James's
" would be as much in the way, as a
" Morocco ambaſſador, or a native of
" Otaheite.—Even a birth-day ode is
" conſidered now as a *bore* *."

Author. " If it be not impertinent,
" Sir, I would aſk you the channel

* A faſhionable word for a tireſome repetition.

" through

" through which you are able to be of
" ſo much ſervice to the public."

Provider. " That is one of the
" *arcana* of the *bona dea*, a ſecret not
" to be divulged. The chief of our
" places are procured through the *me-*
" *dium* of the ladies; but the methods
" they make uſe of is a myſtery be-
" yond *our* knowledge. Buſineſs is
" very dead at my office, when we
" have ſober old men at the head of
" the various departments; but when
" we have a chancellor, a chamber-
" lain, a lord ſteward, and ſo on,
" young enough, and wicked enough
" to keep girls, we have always ſome-
" thing ſtirring.—If old places don't
" drop, we create new ones.—Should
" you like any thing up ſtairs, or would
" you prefer it in the kitchen?"

Author. " Theſe are not ſo gen-
" teel—are they?"

Provider. " All places about his

" Majeſty are genteel, not excepting
" even his chimney-ſweeper and his
" nightman. His footmen are eſquires,
" and his grooms of the bed-chamber
" are no more."

Author. " Being a gentleman by
" birth, and having had a good edu-
" cation, I am eligible to any employ;
" but I ſhould wiſh for one with little
" attendance."

Provider. " *Gentleman* and *educa-*
" *tion* are out of the queſtion—theſe
" qualifications ill ſuit with courtiers;
" who are obliged to ſubmit now to
" ſuch indignities and mortifications,
" that a man of any ſpirit or abilities
" will not be ſeen among them.
" Formerly, none but men of birth
" and talents were to be found within
" the palace, but now men of all
" ranks and denominations crowd in,
" many to be *made* gentlemen. As
" you ſeem deſirous of a place where
" little

" little attendance is required, perhaps
" you would like a ſinecure: we have
" great plenty of theſe, and of courſe
" they are often dropping; or we
" could ſaddle you upon a commiſ-
" ſioner of the cuſtoms or exciſe;—
" though now I think on't, theſe
" gentlemen are ſkittiſh, and are very
" reſtive, unleſs they are *ridden* * by
" ladies.—Let me ſee—*(looking over
" his liſt)* here is a place that perhaps
" may ſuit you, and is now vacant."

Author. " What is it?"

Provider. " Sweeper of the Mall;
" the ſalary, one hundred pounds a
" year, is almoſt a ſinecure, and may
" be done by deputy; with five-and-
" twenty pounds a year for brooms
" that are never uſed."

* This is obliging a commiſſioner to pay a certain annuity out of his ſalary, to a perſon fixed upon him, and who is then ſaid to *ride* him.

Author. "I ſhould wiſh for a bet-
"ter income."

Provider. "Oh, we can add as
"many hundreds to it as you pleaſe;
"this we often do, in proportion to
"the purchaſe money: or there's the
"keeper of the lions—it is a better
"place, and will be ſhortly vacant,
"for he is now ill, and his apothecary
"is my particular *friend.*"

Author. "You have a numerous
"acquaintance, I apprehend, among
"the medical tribe?"

Provider. "Making freſh ac-
"quaintance among them every day.
"—I have a long folio liſt of the
"apothecaries every placeman em-
"ploys. This we find out by our
"runners; and this knowledge is of
"great uſe to my office; as, through
"them, I always get the firſt intelli-
"gence of any illneſs."

Author (laughing.) "And ſend
"them

" them out of the world ſome years
" before their time."

Provider. " No, not quite ſo.—
" A placeman always lives till his
" friends and his employers are tired
" of him; and if his days by any ac-
" cident are ſhortened, it is only re-
" moving him from an envious and
" ill-natured world."

Author. " You was ſaying, I
" think, Mr. Provider, that you fre-
" quently procure additional ſalaries to
" be added to old offices?"

Provider. " Frequently."

Author. " But this is a bad way
" of diſpoſing of the public money,
" for many offices are too well paid
" already."

Provider. " Miniſters are often
" obliged to this, when they have
" not a place vacant of ſufficient mag-
" nitude to ſtop the mouth of a needy
" and craving patriot; and, if they

" could not do the ſame now and then
" to ſerve themſelves, it would be a
" hard caſe. Who would be a mini-
" ſter of this country, and ſtand the
" baiting like a bull, unleſs he could
" have the fingering of a little of the
" public caſh?—As you ſay you are
" an author, Sir, if you will under-
" take to puff the miniſtry for a twelve-
" month in ſome of the public prints,
" I may poſſibly procure you a penſion
" of two or three hundred pounds a
" year for half the purchaſe-money
" you would otherwiſe be obliged to
" pay. Our price is generally five
" years purchaſe for an employ, and
" nine years for a ſinecure or penſion;
" but, if you lay it on pretty thick in
" favour of public meaſures, perhaps
" I may procure you a penſion for five
" years purchaſe."

Author. " You procure dignities
" ſometimes for gentlemen, I pre-
" ſume?"

Provider.

Provider. "Nothing more com-
" mon.—I got Mr. Alderman Fig, the
" grocer, created a baronet the other
" day for leſs than five hundred
" pounds, beſides the fees; and I am
" now in treaty with Sir Slovenly
" Hogſtye, the diſtiller, for an Iriſh
" peerage. He has been moving hea-
" ven and earth theſe twenty years to
" accompliſh it, under the plea of
" public ſervices, but thoſe are ſuch
" ſtale pretences as won't go down
" now-a-days. He is obliged to have
" recourſe to me at laſt."

Author. "I fear you will render
" your titles, at this rate, very nu-
" merous and very cheap."

Provider. "No, no; we guard
" againſt this too; fearing it ſhould
" happen, as lady Sarcaſm ſays, that
" ſhe is afraid to ſpit out of her coach,
" leſt ſhe ſhould ſpit upon an Iriſh
" Lord."

CHAP. III.

Commences Hireling Writer, Reviewer. The Iniquity of Reviewers and Booksellers.

NOT finding, from this man's account, that I could ſuit myſelf without a conſiderable ſum of money, more than I had to ſpare, I gave up the idea, and determined to employ myſelf in the literary way. Accordingly I took a genteel firſt floor in a private ſtreet, for which I was to pay one guinea and a half a week, reſumed my own name, Edward Wilbraham, and gave my hand a ſecond time in marriage to my dear Eliza, according to the ceremonies of the Engliſh church.

Our

Our alliance was the reſult of mutual love, very unlike thoſe Smithfield bargains that conſtitute the nuptials of modern days, where it is ten to one but after the firſt ſix months, not only indifference but hatred ſucceeds. A man of rank and fortune allied himſelf to a woman of birth and of the firſt pretenſions; the marriage was negotiated by the parents, and the young couple came together with all the ſeeming inclination that could be wiſhed. Prior, however, to the nuptial ceremony, the young gentleman wiſhed to furniſh his houſe. He applied to an upholſterer for that purpoſe, fixed upon ſuch things as he wanted, and when he came to the article of beds, was aſked what ſized beds he would have made, the old faſhioned width of four feet ſix, or the modern ones of ſix feet. The young gentleman not having an idea of ſix feet, deſired

deſired to ſee one. On being taken into the warehouſe and ſhewn ſeveral, he cried, "Oh! no, no! let me have "a narrow one, four feet ſix or four "feet. I ſhould never find my wife "in a bed ſo wide as this;" but twelve months afterwards his mind was changed; when the upholſterer carried in his bill, he was blamed, and aſked how he could think of making all the beds ſo narrow, and ſo d-mned unfaſhionable? The upholſterer wiſhed to apologize, and endeavoured to lay the fault where it ought to have been laid; but he was not ſuffered to ſpeak; but ordered immediately to alter them to ſix feet or upwards, with "Z—nds, "they are intolerable; turn which way "I will, I am ſure to find my wife."

When we were ſettled in our lodging, I propoſed to hire a footman to attend us, reſolving this ſhould be my eſtabliſhment till I could turn round and ſee what I could

could afford to do; for nothing hurts a man more than living at a rate beyond his income; it obliges him to incur debts, which not only rob a man of his peace and his liberty, but is an act of diſhoneſty and cruelty to our creditors; for it can be no other than cruelty and diſhoneſty to obtain and make free with the property of another, where there is little or no proſpect of paying for it. What right has a man to expect to live upon the labour, or at the expence of another? The misfortune is, that ſuch is the luxury and depravity of the age, that men are eſteemed and looked up to, now-a-days, in proportion to the appearance they make, and therefore to acquire that eſteem, they make an appearance which their fortunes will not ſupport, and, of courſe, are frequently involved in debt. And what is the conſequence? to gentlemen and men of rank it is

dreadful; they forfeit their independence, and loſe their dignity. It is independence only that can make a man great, when he can ſtand, as it were, alone in life, and owes his ſupport to no one. The gentry of England formerly maintained their pre-eminence over the lower claſs of people, by their bounty, their munificence, and their hoſpitality; but it ſeems now to be kept up at the expence of their tradeſmen. One would think it impoſſible that a man who is given to contract debts ſhould ever enjoy a peaceable moment, when he knows, that it is in the power of his butcher or his taylor to lock him up, or ſeize upon what he has; yet ſuch is the abandoned turn of the preſent faſhionable world, that they can live eaſily under theſe conſtant apprehenſions, and ſtill go on to encreaſe the cauſe of ſo much diſgrace. Many have crept into Parliament merely to ſecure

their perſons, and have thought an execution in their houſe no kind of diſhonour. It is well known, that a nobleman in the county of Surry (who was ſeldom without half a dozen fellows in his houſe put in by the ſheriff, under executions for debt) uſed to give theſe men a livery, and glory in ſuch a ſuite of attendants. The cook of a man of quality, who now, owing to his indigence, is an ambaſſador at a foreign court, coming down into the country with a phaeton and pair of fine horſes, to pay a viſit to the ſervants of a family in which he once lived; on being aſked by a gentleman in that family, if he did not live with the Earl of —— as his cook, replied, "Yes, "Sir, and as his *fac totum*. I laid out "all the money for the uſe of his "lordſhip's table; and between you "and I, Sir, he is much indebted to "me for the ſums I ſaved him.

"How

" How much do you think, Sir, I " contrived to keep his table for?"— " That depends," ſays the gentleman, " on the number of his family."— " Oh!" ſays he, " we were all upon " board wages; I had only to provide " for my lord, my lady, and an oc- " caſional viſitant." And on being told he might furniſh every article even at its firſt coming in, for 30l. a week, " No, no, Sir," ſays he, " not for ſo " *ſmall* a ſum as that. I contracted " to do it for 80l. a week; my lord " would have allowed me 120l. but " I thought it too much, and ſo have " ſaved him 40l." (when in fact he put fifty in his own pocket). " And " ſo well ſatisfied is he with my con- " duct, that though his circumſtances " obliged him to part with his ſer- " vants and leave England, he could " not think of doing it, without " ſettling upon me my ſalary of " 100l.

" 100l. a-year. My conſcience," continued the cook, " would not let me " take in his abſence more than 80l.; " and, of courſe, to repay my gene- " roſity, he made me a preſent of " this carriage, and pair of horſes, " which I intend to keep in remem- " brance of him." Thus it is that our great men are ruined; they ſeldom ſee far before them, and, confiding in the honeſty of the people about them, never ſee their misfortunes till it be too late to retrieve them. I apprehend there cannot be a more low or ſervile ſituation, than to be aſhamed or afraid to ſee any one man breathing, and yet he who is much in debt is in that condition, with reſpect to all his creditors. How farcical is the retinue and grandeur of him within doors, who ſhrinks at the expectation of ſurly demands without! To hear one complain that he is almoſt become a bankrupt, by truſting Lord ſuch a one;

another

another that ſuch a lady's finery is the occaſion of his own wife and daughter's appearing ſo long in the ſame gown; another that the furniture of Sir Thomas's houſe are no more his property, than the ſcenery of the theatre are the property of the player, degrades our men of rank beyond expreſſion.

It is theſe conſiderations that determined me to ſquare my expences to my income; and when I mentioned the hiring of a footman, it was not to diſplay any little latent pride of which I might be poſſeſſed, but to have an opportunity of telling the world I meant to keep but one. Servants are not now thoſe faithful and obedient perſons which former ages could boaſt of, but are as great fops and coxcombs, and as unprincipled as their maſters. Happy is he that can do without them! They hate to live in a frugal family, and are never contented but

but in the houſe of extravagance. The more careleſs and waſteful a family is, the better they fare: of ſuch a maſter they ſpeak well; and ſhould he by ſuch conduct be obliged to give up houſe-keeping, or take ſhelter in a priſon, they concert with their fellow-ſervants, ſpeak of him as a good natured generous man, pity his misfortunes, and end the whole with a—"Come, let us look for another place."

But I will not tire my reader on ſo diſagreeable a ſubject: the following ſtory will relieve him. Among thoſe that offered their ſervices, were two, whoſe oddities particularly ſtruck me. The firſt was an Iriſhman, who, with the greateſt brogue, addreſſed me in theſe words: "Hearing your honour "whanted a ſarvant, I made bold to "apply."—"You won't do for *me*, "friend," replied I, "you are an "*Iriſhman*."—"No, an plaze your "honour,"

" honour," returned he, " I am no " Iriſhman."—" Would you make " me believe, friend, that you was not " born in Ireland," ſays I, " when " your very tongue declares it?"— " Born in Ireland!" exclaimed he; " Whu—Honey,—would you I were " a *horſe*, becaze I was born in a " *ſtable?*"—The other had leſs humour but more impudence. Though vails are aboliſhed among the firſt claſs of people, they are not ſo among the ſecond. This was a ſmart fellow whom I thought would ſuit me, but after we were almoſt agreed upon wages, he was very inquiſitive about the ſeveral offices I ſhould employ him in. Here I found that like all other ſervants, he wiſhed to get as much as he could, and do as little as he could help. On my aſſuring him his place would be an eaſy one, he enquired about perquiſites, hoped I would permit

mit him to take vails; and, on my telling him I had no objections to his receiving any thing that was offered him, he aſked what I would allow him for *dead vails*. "Dead vails," cried I, "I do not "comprehend you."—"Why, Sir," "continues he, "as by your ſituation "in life, you muſt have a great many "poor relations, who come, and eat and "drink and give nothing;—what do "you mean to allow a head for *theſe?*"

Having then arranged my domeſtic concerns, my next ſtep was to ſeek out for employ. My wiſh was to get into the pay of ſome opulent bookſeller. I applied to the man who printed the *Flogger* for me, made him my friend, and found him of uſe to me. He recommended me to a patriot bookſeller, as a man whoſe talents were adapted to any thing in the ſcribbling line, and as one (which weighs moſt with the trade) who would write a great deal for

for a little money. To this man I was introduced, and he aſked me if I was a good hand at a ſpeech. I told him I was no orator, at leaſt I had never tried my abilities that way. "I don't "want you," ſays he, "to bellow "forth yourſelf; but can you pen a "good bellowing ſpeech for another? "My friend tells me," continued he, "you are a pretty good politician, and "as a variety of ignorant and illiterate "people now creep into parliament "(ſome to ſhelter themſelves from a "jail, others hoping to get ſomething "by mouthing at and baiting the mi-"niſter), theſe perſons are in continual "want of ſomething to ſay, and I am "daily applied to, to get ſpeeches "penned for them. If you are clever "at this, I can employ you the whole "ſeſſions: you have nothing to do, "but to collect the ſubjects from the "newſpapers, which generally an-

"nounce

" nounce the buſineſs that is to come
" on, that is, the order of a future
" day, and have the ſpeech ready for
" delivery the day before."—" And
" what, Sir, is to be my pay," ſays I,
" upon theſe occaſions?"—" That,"
returns he, " depends upon the length
" of the ſpeech, and the ſhortneſs of
" the time in which it is to be compo-
" ſed. Sometimes," ſays he, " we
" don't know the buſineſs twenty-four
" hours before-hand: in this caſe it is
" all night work, and if cleverly done,
" I may give you a guinea, at other
" times we ſeldom exceed half the
" money, and ſometimes a crown.
" But you need not fear proper en-
" couragement, if you hit them off
" well, and are keen at a laſh. Only
" take care to put the tittles to your
" *i*'s, and the croſſes to your *t*'s, and
" write pretty plain, or ſome of my
" gentlemen will not be able to read

" them." I undertook the taſk, and had ſufficient employ; for as I threw into my ſpeeches plenty of ſarcaſm, invective, and now and then a Latin quotation, interſperſed with an occaſional anecdote, to entertain and keep the hearers from yawning, taking care always to preſerve thoſe *elegant* parliamentary phraſes of " Habits of inti-" timacy,—Verſant in order,—Ho-" nourable gentleman in my eye," and the like; and as I had a happy knack of penning them in different language and ſtyle, ſo as to adapt them to the character of the ſpeakers, there ſeldom paſſed a week during the whole ſeſſions, that I did not pick up four or five guineas. For a modeſt man I wrote in the third perſon, for an egotiſt in the firſt, and never failed to give ſcope to the natural feelings and diſpoſition of the ſpeaker. When Parliament broke up, I was employed to write

write ſermons for the clergy. In this manufacture I was not ſo well paid. Seldom could I get more than a crown for the beſt written diſcourſe, except it was wanted by a biſhop, or it was required to be printed; in theſe caſes I had half a guinea. Indeed the clergy cared not how ſhort and little declamatory they were; for a declamatory diſcourſe requires too much exertion and trouble in the delivery.

I ſoon wrote myſelf into reputation, and was applied to by a gentleman concerned in the reviews, to take a part in one of thoſe periodical publications, the pay for which was two guineas per ſheet, for the quantity I ſupplied. I doubted my abilities in this buſineſs, as it required a thorough knowledge of letters, to be able to criticize, with candour and preciſion, the works of others. "Candour," ſays he, "we have nothing to do with;

" for it has been long a cuſtom to admit
" the author of a new publication to
" write his own criticiſms: in ſuch
" caſes we not only ſave a guinea by
" the quantity of matter (for moſt
" authors are very verboſe in their
" own praiſe), but we get a guinea or
" two for its inſertion: and as to dif-
" ficulty, there is little or none; we
" only expect a few curſory remarks,
" with here and there an entertaining
" extract. The preſs ſo teems with
" publications, that was every work
" ſtudied, we ſhould never get through
" them. We had a gentleman once,
" who would touch us off as much
" poetry, mathematics, and phyſic,
" in two hours, as would employ four
" compoſitors to ſet up for two days,
" and without much knowledge in
" either of the ſubjects; but we have
" loſt him; he was ſhipped off againſt
" his will, is now an overſeer in a
" ſugar-

" ſugar plantation in Jamaica, and we " are in want of one to ſupply his " place. You may as well try your " hand, and ſee what you can do." I ſmiled in my ſleeve; but as I was not in a ſituation to refuſe an employ I thought I could undertake, I embraced the propoſal, eſpecially as, according to the plan of my employer, it would take up but little of my time.

The next day a porter came with a bundle of new books on every ſcience. I looked them over, and meeting with a political tract, a ſubject in which I was beſt read, I put together a variety of animadverſions, and ſpun out my remarks to a conſiderable length, but treated the author with as much juſtice and candour as I could. On my tranſmitting the manuſcript to the printer, he thought proper to curtail it, by running his pen through a variety of the beſt arguments, which he was

pleaſed to ſay were tedious and dry, but which he in reality objected to, becauſe the manuſcript was more than he choſe to pay for. This vexed me exceedingly; but as I was writing for bread, I was obliged to ſacrifice my fame, and ſubmit.

It is no wonder that theſe monthly criticiſms are in ſuch low eſteem with men of reading and good ſenſe, when the printers of them will dock and mutilate a manuſcript, as they think proper, and fill their pockets at the expence of their credit. A very ingenious performance was one day brought me, with the following laconic note, from one of the proprietors.

"SIR,

"The author of the book herewith "ſent, has been troubleſome to us; "by giving him a laſh, you will "oblige your humble ſervant."

At

At another time I received the following, with five octavo volumes, about ſeven in the evening.

" Mr. Wilbraham is deſired to
" tranſmit his remarks on the volumes
" herewith ſent, by nine to-morrow
" morning, or they will be too late
" for publication."

In ſhort, I found this part of my profeſſion as barbarous and iniquitous as my late practice of phyſic; for as that was murdering of men, this was murdering of reputations; and as reputations generally outlive the period of human life, and the laſt ſlaughter is the greateſt of the two, I was determined to wipe my hands of it.

There is not a greater ſlavery, nor a more dependent ſituation in the world, than to be in the pay of the bookſellers: they in general reward an

author ſo ill, as to keep him always poor, and this poverty is their beſt ſecurity againſt encroachment: for was a good writer to publiſh his own works, where he gets ten pounds, he would gain a hundred. Bookſellers are too timid adventurers to riſk much money on any one publication; and the misfortune is, a manuſcript never announces its ſucceſs: a bookſeller buys as if he never ſaw it; of courſe, if a book ſucceeds, 'tis the bookſeller, not the author, that profits by it. Were authors to be their own publiſhers, and to have juſtice done them by all parties concerned, they would be enabled to live well: for conſiderable incomes have ariſen from the ſale of ſome works, for the copy-right of which very ſmall ſums were originally given. *Burn's Juſtice*, a book that has brought in thouſands, was originally ſold for leſs than five hundred pounds,

Gay's

Gay's Beggar's Opera for thirty pounds, and *Milton's Paradiſe Loſt* for fifteen pounds: and I have heard Sir J. F—ld—g ſay, that had his brother preſerved his copies in his own hands, the family would not have been reduced to the difficulties they were. Great ſums of money have occaſionally been given for copy-right, but this has been upon the reputation of the author; and notwithſtanding this, far from adequate to the intrinſic value of the work. Indeed, the bookſellers are ſo certain of this, that when any one of the trade fails, or retires from buſineſs, and his copy-right is to be ſold, leſt authors ſhould come at the true value of ſuch copy-right, and know what it annually brings in; though ſuch property is ſold by auction, the ſale is always a private one. The bookſellers alone are convened, and they will ſit a whole morning

brooding over the buſineſs, like a number of conſpirators, darkly meditating the deſtruction of an individual. And ſuch is the jealouſy and rancour of the bookſelling tribe, that they will depreciate a work in which the trade is not concerned, and merely on that account. "How does ſuch a "book ſell?" ſays a cuſtomer, "can "you ſhew me one?"—"Oh, not at "all," replies the bookſeller: "I never "keep any: I don't know that I have "been aſked for more than one ſince "it has been out." And you are ſure to find it ill ſpoken of in the *reviews*. That this will be the fate of mine, I have not a doubt, eſpecially after what I have ſaid; but let him, or any other bookſeller with whom he is connected, be concerned in the copy, and he will put it into the hands of every one, with—"Have you "ſeen this, Sir? It is a book in great

"eſtima-

" eſtimation, and ſells rapidly." Then again, by way of deception, though they print but five hundred copies, the title-page ſhall be altered five times in ſuch an edition, the ſecond hundred having the words *ſecond edition* in the title, the third hundred the *third edition*, and ſo on: ſo that the third edition of a book ſhall be advertiſed and ſelling, before a ſufficient number are ſold to pay even paper or print. I bleſſed myſelf that I diſcovered theſe artifices early enough to put many hundreds of pounds in my pocket; for having no man-midwife to bring my bantlings into the world, they were not ſtrangled in the birth. Indeed they have been obliged to live by their own little merit, a prohibition being laid by the proprietors of the reviews, on thoſe who write for them, not to ſay a ſingle word in the favour of any thing they know to be mine, but to handle it as

ſeverely as they can. I have the ſatisfaction, however, to think, that whatever little reputation I may have acquired, they cannot diminiſh it: or even if they could, they cannot hinder me from being eaſy under their attacks.

CHAP. IV.

Remarks on Lawyers, and Stock-brokers. Our Author loſes his Wife. On mock Mourning, and the diſgraceful Conduct of Men of Rank.

I WENT on ſucceſsfully as an author, and found that the profeſſion, under the circumſtances I have mentioned, enabled me to live, and cut a much better figure than I expected; but had I been poor, I ſhould not have repined, the poverty of a man of letters being a proof only, that he never proſtituted either his perſon or his pen. I fell into the hands of a very reſpectable bookſeller, a man who had a pride and ſpirit above the reſt of the trade, and who ſcorned to be guilty of a mean

or

or narrow action. This man did juſtice to every work I put into his hands, ſettled his accounts very regularly, and paid his balances punctually. I did ſo well, that I took a houſe before I had been twelve months married, and appeared in a ſtyle that would not have diſgraced any of my father's family. My Eliza bleſſed me with a ſon, and we were as happy as matrimony, reciprocal affection, and good circumſtances could render us. We made ſeveral applications to Mr. Wildman, who was ſo exaſperated at the conduct of his daughter, that he would attend to none of them; and I was under the neceſſity of proceeding againſt him in law, to recover the three hundred a year that became the property of my wife on the death of her mother. Many terms elapſed before I could bring the matter to a final hearing. I at firſt fell into the hands of one of

thoſe attornies who know how to handle a client to the beſt advantage. Notwithſtanding all my caution, I was not aware of the injury they could do me; I little expected they ever carried matters to ſuch lengths as to take money of the oppoſite party, and betray their employers; but I now found myſelf miſtaken, for I diſcovered when the cauſe was at iſſue, and my attorney had given notice of trial, that he had been bought over on the other ſide, and had omitted to attend: the conſequence was a nonſuit, and I was ſerved with an execution for a *non pros;* that is, for not proſecuting the matter to a hearing. Attornies are liable to be ſtruck off the roll for this conduct; and I was very well diſpoſed to make an example of mine; but a friend diſſuaded me from it with the following argument: "If you move "the Court of King's Bench againſt "him,

" him, it muſt be on *affidavit*; and I " ſhould not wonder if ſuch a raſcal " was to ſuborn witneſſes to prove you " perjured, and ſet you in the pillory." Moſt attornies will delay a ſuit, in order to put a few term and other fees into their pockets; and, when the ſolicitor has done, the barriſter takes it up. In this cauſe of mine, as the lawyers found that money was not wanting on either ſide, they took care to make the moſt of the buſineſs. Many frivolous pretences are often urged to delay a hearing; but I could never ſuppoſe, that when the cauſe is once called on, that any meaſures are purſued to put off the trial; I was now convinced to the contrary, for, as I have obſerved, when the attornies have done, the counſel begin; they will move under various pretexts to defer its coming on from day to day, purpoſely that the barriſters retained may

may have freſh retaining fees; for every adjournment of a cauſe puts freſh ſums into the pockets of the pleaders; and this cuſtom meets with too much countenance from above, ſo that when the witneſſes are all ready, and every thing prepared, the hearing ſhall be unexpectedly adjourned. Such is the glorious uncertainty of the law!—*Why are the lawyers always dreſſed in black?* ſays a countryman. *Out of reſpect to their clients, whoſe heirs they are.* However, my next attorney was exceedingly induſtrious, and to do him juſtice, ſo ready to ſerve my cauſe, that he once aſked me at parting, who was to find the witneſſes, he or I?—A decree was at laſt obtained in my favour, and I was put into poſſeſſion of the eſtate.

We were now as happy as hearts could wiſh, and being at the receipt of about eight hundred pounds a year, we

we envied not others as many thouſands. Indeed I had now more money than I ſpent, and what I had to ſpare, I occaſionally lodged in the funds. I mention this, as it will give me an opportunity of laying open the arts of ſtock-brokers, and exhibiting a curious ſcene or two to the world.

In the place called the Stock-Exchange, in London, I believe there is as much iniquity carried on as in any market whatever: brokers are allowed, by act of parliament, half a crown only for ſelling or buying a hundred pound ſtock; but the prices are ſo fluctuating, that ſuch a ſtock ſhall be worth one-eighth of a pound more, one minute than at another; the broker takes an advantage of this, and will be ſure to gain half a crown more in every hundred he buys or ſells; that is, if he is to buy, he will give an eighth leſs than he charges his employer;

ployer; if he ſells, will ſell for an eighth more than he accounts for. This is a tranſaction between broker and broker, at which the principal cannot get. If they buy on ſpeculation, the broker has his employer ſtill more under his thumb. If he makes a fortunate purchaſe, it is his *own;* ſhould it turn out a loſing game, it is his *employer*'s. Hence it is that ſo many are ruined by trafficking in the Alley, as it is called; and hence it is that ſo many brokers get fortunes. The ſtock-market is indeed open to every one that pleaſes to attend it; but the brokers prevent any but themſelves having any dealing there, except through them, for they will neither buy of, or ſell to, any one, but of their own fraternity.

Then, as to the buſineſs of inſurance: the brokers once, when I was among them, had prevailed upon a poor

poor diſſipated man of faſhion, remarkable for that Hypocratic face, which medical men deem, in the laſt ſtage of a conſumption, to be the immediate forerunner of death, but who was nevertheleſs in ſound health, to exhibit himſelf in the Stock-Exchange, and to affect a little hectic cough. Under the promiſe of having a ſhare in the money they gained, he ſubmitted to this, and, like the fraudulent tranſactions of a horſe-race, where, when large betts or odds are laid, that a favourite horſe wins, the owner of the horſe ſhall take theſe odds from every one through the medium of his friends, and then order his horſe ſecretly to be phyſicked the day before, ſo as to incapacitate him from running; or direct the rider, as by accident, to go on the wrong ſide the poſt, thus taking all the knowing ones in:—ſo was it here. It was propoſed to inſure this gentleman's

man's life for a year; and as he was ſuppoſed to be at death's door, very large premiums were given (70l. to receive a hundred) in caſe he died within the year. Numbers of people inſured his life, and the inſured were taken in to a vaſt amount.

Nay, they have carried their iniquitous tranſactions further: it is very well known, that a few years back, they put a fanciful nervous man to death, by underwriting him; that is, large premiums having been given to a great amount, to receive certain ſums in caſe he died within a limited time, and the inſured being apprehenſive he would outlive that period, they artfully among themſelves pretended to venture great odds in the way of inſurance, that he would not live till the time ſpecified; this was conſtantly dinged in his ears, and it abſolutely had ſuch an effect upon him, as to kill him long before the time.

This

This they call *doing* a man to death; and, I perſuade myſelf, is as much *murder* in the eye of Heaven as killing him by ſlow poiſon; but, it being the event of commercial arrangement, was conſidered only as an act of cleverneſs.

I was now, in my own opinion, at the ſummit of felicity; but an accident happened that blaſted the whole. My poor Eliza, coming home one evening from the opera, caught cold: the conſequence was a putrid fever, that, in ſpite of every medical aſſiſtance, took her off in the very bloom of her youth; and it is but juſtice to her memory, that I ſhould ſay, ſhe died as ſhe lived, the pride of innocence and of virtue. Her laſt words to me were, "My dear "Edward, after conſigning to you the "care of my infant boy, I have but "one requeſt to make. Imprudent as "my father may think I have acted, "I pre-

" I preſume he will feel my loſs. " Unkindly as he may have acted by " *me*, he is *ſtill* my *father*, and, for " *my* ſake, let no unguarded action of " *yours* add to his diſtreſs." A few months afterwards, the ſmall-pox bereaved me of my ſon; and this ſecond ſtroke of affliction following quick upon the heels of the firſt, quite unmanned me; it was a conſiderable time before I recovered my former ſpirits, I thought of nothing, " but going " down into the grave, mourning;" but Providence has ſo wiſely tempered our frames, that the impreſſion which the *deepeſt* calamity leaves upon the mind *will* wear away like other ſublunary things. My Eliza had been the boaſt of my life, and the admiration of all her acquaintance, and I mourned for her, not as the generality of the world mourns, but truly and ſincerely. Mourning for the dead is now become

a farce,

a farce, and there is no appearance of ſorrow in the ſurviving relations, but in the clothes they wear. Many an heir has put on his weepers with as much glee as a birth-day embroidery; and many a widow takes more pride in her weeds than in her bridal clothes. Black is now worn by the heirs and widows of the deceaſed, merely to proclaim, that they have gained an advantage by the death of the perſon they wear it for. Thus we ſee nothing but magnificence and ſolemnity in the equipage of the relict, and an air of releaſe from ſervitude, in the pomp of a ſon who has loſt a father that was very rich. On the death of a nobleman whom I knew, his lady, from an opinion that the melancholy event would affect her ſon, even more than it had herſelf (he having been bred up under the ſame roof, and experienced from his father the height of parental

fondneſs), prevailed upon a friend, a man of addreſs, to wait on him and break it to him, in the tendereſt manner he could. This gentleman having taken ſome pains to open the buſineſs, ſo as to arm him for the doleful news; concluded with obſerving, that as it was abſurd to conceal the truth from him, ſince his good ſenſe would reconcile him to the event; he muſt tell him, that his father had paid the debt of nature, and was dead. The young man, at the ſound of the laſt word, ſtarted back, and ſtared him in the face; then repeating the word *dead!* emphatically, he pauſed——and whilſt his friend was in pain, conceiving he had told his ſtory too abruptly, the young man put him at his eaſe, and, with a toſs of the chin, made up his own mind upon the occaſion, with the following declaration:—"I'll have a "*black* chariot;—my greys will look "*ſweetly* in it."

The parade of ſome is truly ridiculous: I was once an attendant at an evening funeral, ſeated in a large room full of mourners, with a pair of candles only at the further end, and waiting till I was quite weary before every thing was ready to proceed; my ſpirits began to flag, and keep pace with the lambent flame of the unſnuffed lights, whoſe, loaded wicks gave great motion to the livid glare. It had ſuch an effect upon my nerves, that the occaſional glaſs of wine handed round at theſe times was ſcarce ſufficient to ſupport me on my ſeat. I called frequently for the ſnuffers to top theſe luminaries, and remove their lambent play. They were at laſt brought to me by the ſervant of the houſe; and as I was going to uſe them, the undertaker ſeized me by the hand, with, "Z——ds, Sir! what are you about? "You'll deſtroy the grey light."

As

As a literary man, I was invited to the houſes of many very reſpectable perſonages; but, proud as I might be of the honour, I met with little there but mortification. I was placed at the lower end of the table; helped to an ordinary part; not attended to, perhaps, when I ſpoke; requeſted occaſionally to riſe and ring the bell; not ſuffered to cut in at the whiſt table, and ſuch other ſlights. As I conſidered myſelf, if not of equal rank in life with the reſt of the company, yet, as having more knowledge, and more abilities, and of courſe equally intitled to reſpect, I muſt own it hurt me; but why, if I diſliked it, did I go into the way of it? Becauſe I thought to beneſit by their acquaintance. Indeed, I frequently reconciled this behaviour to me, by ſaying to myſelf, theſe men do not in reality deſpiſe *me*. It is my *fortune* they contemn; and they are

not ſo much in the wrong, for it is certainly a ſmall one.—I determined, therefore, to put up with the indignity, but make uſe of them in my turn. I never refuſed any thing they were diſpoſed to preſent me, and took every advantage their ſituation threw in my way.

The moſt ſenſible men are open to flattery;—I was not ſparing of this, and I found the uſe of it. It has been generally allowed, that the late Mr. G—— was a man of uncommon diſcernment, and yet the following ſtory is told of him. He uſed to admit to his table the famous ſnuffman in Fleet-ſtreet. One day, when G——'s theatrical abilities were on the decline, this man paid him a viſit unexpectedly at his country-houſe. "My dear," ſaid G—— to his wife, "H—— is "come to dine with us; what have "we for dinner?" She told him, a pheaſant,

pheaſant, and a few other things.—
" A pheaſant?" replies he, pauſing—
" Well—you may help him to the
" leg, it is good enough for him."
But in the courſe of dinner, H——
obſerved, that he was at the theatre
the other night, when G—— played
Richard, and that he never remem-
bered to have ſeen him play the part
better. " No, no, H——," ſays
G——, " that's too bad; I'm not
" half the man I was!" H—— con-
firmed the aſſertion, adding, that he
had all the powers, all the animation
and ſoundneſs of voice that he ever
poſſeſſed. Overſet with this flattery,
he ſcarce could keep his ſeat: " Do,
" my dear," ſays he to his wife, " help
' Mr. H—— to a ſlice of the breaſt,
" you gave him only the coarſe part
" of the pheaſant;" and to his ſer-
vant, " Bring us a bottle of the beſt
" Burgundy." Then addreſſing him-

ſelf to H——, "Faith, my dear "friend, I thought you had been ban- "tering me, but as I know you to be "a good judge, and an honeſt fellow, "I *now* believe you; for I feel my "powers ſtrengthen with my age."

I think, for the honour of our nobility, it ſhould be known, that whilſt one is engaged at a cricket-match, ſacrificing the welfare of the ſtate to the bat and the wicket, another ſhall be boxing with poſt-boys and poſtillions, and another running a race with a chimney-ſweeper up a chimney, the devil within, the peer without; but, he who ran within beat the other hollow; for he was hooping *ſweep* at the top before his lordſhip was half-way up. And then as to the women, they intrigue with ſtable-boys, and marry their footmen; and yet they talk of pride, of dignity, and rank. Time was, when an Engliſh baron was the moſt

most respectable character in the world; but the dignity of the modern peerage consists in being a disgrace to manhood.

CHAP. V.

Meets with Lord S. Fights him. On the Abſurdity of Duelling.

I WAS one day aſked to dine with the Marquis of G. who had a principal office in adminiſtration. He was a perſon whom I knew only by character; but that character did him honour, and made me anxious to be known to him. He was a nobleman, who, though conſcious of his own dignity and careful never to commit himſelf, put every one at their eaſe about him, and never attempted to raiſe his own conſequence by leſſening that of another: he never ſet his chaplain at a ſide-table, or trod upon his toes

toes to ſilence him in converſation; nor ever aſked a dependant to riſe from dinner to ring the bell, or let in his dog; but, as his ſituation in life required him occaſionally to mix with men of inferior rank, he was induſtriouſly attentive to ſuch men, leſt they might feel themſelves wounded at any ſeeming neglect.—It is wonderful to reflect on the ignorance of thoſe brought up in high life! To know a great deal of the world is a phraſe they affect, whereas to real worldly knowledge they are utter ſtrangers. The moſt ſenſible among them are ignorant of every thing beyond their line of life, and they owe their ignorance to their pride; maſters of etiquette they are, and that is all. Were they open to information, they have frequent opportunities of being well informed. If there be any thing to be envied in perſons of rank, it is, that their ſitua-

tion enables them to have men of learning and knowledge frequently at their tables; but, when they are ſo bleſſed, from a miſtaken notion of elevation, they ſhut their eyes and ears to that information they might otherwiſe acquire.

The Marquis coveted my acquaintance, I believe, from an opinion that I might be uſeful to him with my pen. As ſoon as decency permitted me to go abroad, I waited on him; and when my name was announced, he very politely met me at the foot of his ſtairs; told me how greatly flattered he was with my viſit; the principal object of which was to requeſt my opinion of a paper he delivered to me ſealed up, and which he begged me to put in my pocket till my return home, as he had ſome company above, to whom he meant to introduce me. Theſe were ſeveral gentlemen of his acquaint-

acquaintance, whom he alſo invited to dinner. Among them, to my ſurpriſe and mortification, was Lord B. the perſon from whoſe hands I had eſcaped when I left Mr. Wildman's. His father was dead, and he was now the Earl of S. I preſently knew him, but he remembered nothing of me; nor, having changed my name, did any circumſtance lead to a diſcovery. But, as fate would have it, during the afternoon, in the hour of hilarity, talking of their amours, the Marquis of G. rallying Lord S. obſerved, in good nature, that he had little reaſon to boaſt of predilections, for to him they had nearly been attended with bad conſequences. "Was that fel-
"low," ſays the Marquis, "whom
"you waylaid in Berkley-ſquare never
"heard of afterwards?" "No," replied his lordſhip, ſmiling, "the raſ-
"cal, I dare ſay, has been hanged at

" ſome country aſſizes long before " this. How the devil ſo fine a girl " as Miſs Wildman could counte- " nance the advances of ſo low and " ignorant a ſcoundrel, to me is aſto- " niſhing!" I obſerved, that the ladies in general, being made of finer materials than our ſex, were bleſſed with a peculiar diſcernment, and could diſcover beauties and perfections in man much readier than we could; at leaſt, we muſt leave them at liberty to know what they themſelves beſt like. " Yes, Sir," returns Lord S. " but " this fellow was a ſervant of her fa- " ther's, and one of the moſt low-bred " ſcoundrels in the world.—You are " unacquainted with the ſtory, Sir, " and therefore cannot decide upon " the merits of it." I told his lordſhip, that the affair was a very public one, and within my recollection; that I knew ſome of the parties, and that he

he was more indebted to that low-bred ſcoundrel's forgiveneſs for his impunity, than to any juſtification of the ſteps he took. "You ſeem to take this buſi-"neſs up, Sir," replies Lord S. warmly, "in a very ungentleman-like man-"ner, and very unbecoming the ſitua-"tion in which you were introduced "here." The Marquis would have interfered, but I requeſted to be heard upon the occaſion. "I am not in-"ſenſible," ſays I, addreſſing myſelf Lord S. "of the honour Lord G. "has done me, by inviting me to "his houſe, and I beg his lordſhip's "pardon for any thing that may have "eſcaped me, to trouble the harmony "of the afternoon; but, I flatter my-"ſelf, he would not wiſh to conſider "me in a ſituation below that of a "gentleman, and as a proper acquaint-"ance for himſelf. I cannot boaſt of "titulary honours; but, in point of

"family,

" family, education, and abilities, I " am ſecond but to few. All gentle- " men are upon an equality; ſo far, " my lord, I am your equal, and will " ſubmit to no indignity." At this, he roſe and walked about the room in heat, muttering the words, " Fellow— " impertinence, impudence."—One of the company requeſted me, apart, to retire a few minutes till Lord S.'s heat had ſubſided. This I totally objected to, declaring, " I had more reaſon to " be diſpleaſed than his lordſhip; that " if he knew me, I was perſuaded he " would not dare to look in my face; " that I was the very man that his un- " guarded tongue had traduced; that " I gloried in being that very *raſcal* " and *ſcoundrel* his lordſhip had " thought proper to calumniate; that " I was nearly allied to the Wilbra- " hams of Nottinghamſhire; that I " was in the entail of that eſtate; that

" I had

" I had married Miſs Wildman, though
" Providence had been pleaſed ſince to
" take her from me; and that at the
" preſent moment I enjoyed part of
" the family eſtate: in a word, that
" though fate once had frowned on
" me, and I had worn a livery, I was
" born and bred a gentleman, and
" was as independent as any man liv-
" ing; that the language his lordſhip
" held out to me was ſuch as could
" not be put up with, and that he
" would find I ſhould reſent it warm-
" ly." Thunderſtruck at this account, the company knew not how to act; but I ſoon left them to themſelves; for, approaching the Marquis of G. I told him how unhappy the event of that day had made me, not on *my* own account, but *his*, having been the unwilling cauſe of troubling the quiet of his lordſhip's houſe: that for the preſent I would take my leave; thanked him

him for the good opinion he had been pleaſed to entertain of me, and truſted my conduct in life was, and would be, ſuch, as to leave him no room to alter it.

On my return home, I broke open the cover that contained the paper his lordſhip had given me, and found it to be a grant from the crown, of a penſion of three hundred pounds a year, with a warrant to receive a quarter's pay in advance.

The next morning I called upon a particular friend of mine, with whom I had lately made an acquaintance, told him the event of yeſterday, and how determined I was to puniſh Lord S. for the inſult offered, not ſo much to myſelf, for *that*, as he did not know me, I could overlook, nor through revenge at the mode he took to get rid of his hated rival, for as ſuch he underſtood me; but for the indignity, treachery,

treachery, and violence he had offered to my late wife, when Miſs Wildman, and whoſe memory I revered beyond every thing. I importuned this friend to wait on Lord S. from me, and to requeſt he would meet me the next morning at ſix, at the ring in Hyde Park, in order to give me that ſatisfaction the injuries he had done me entitled me to aſk.

My friend ſaw him, and his lordſhip's anſwer was, he muſt firſt know me to be a gentleman, before he ſhould attend to any call of mine upon ſuch a ſubject. I ſent him word, that he need only adviſe with the Marquis of G. upon the occaſion, and I would abide by his determination. The reſult of which was, on my friend's ſeeing him again, that he would certainly meet me at the time and place appointed.

I adjuſted every thing I thought neceſſary to arrange, and was with my friend

friend upon the ground, half an hour before the time. Lord S. kept his appointment punctually, and ſoon after me appeared with *his* friend. The etiquette on theſe occaſions being ſettled, we diſcharged a brace of piſtols at each other, but without effect. Our friends then interfered, and would have had the matter terminate; but, as I did not come there to make a parade of any boaſted heroiſm, but to bring my enemy to a ſenſe of the injury he had done Miſs Wildman, I inſiſted upon his drawing his ſword, which was immediately complied with, and he attacked me with all the fury of revenge; but I being ſomewhat cooler, and maſter of the weapon, parried his thruſts with temper, after a few paſſes, wounded him in the ſword arm; and, as I had done on a former occaſion, diſarmed him. Finding himſelf thus in my power, he acknowledged his error, apologized for his warmth at the

the Marquis of G.'s, and ſaid, had he known ſo much of me then, as he did now, he ſhould not have acted as he had; that his temper frequently betrayed him into ſteps he afterwards repented of, and this was one of them; that fortune had now thrown him into my hands, and he was at my mercy; and if nothing but his life could atone for his raſhneſs, I might take it. "My "lord," replied I, "I muſt beg to be underſtood, that I came not here with any blood-thirſty view; it is not your *life* I ſeek; had I been ſo diſpoſed, I could have taken it, at ſeveral moments within theſe ten minutes paſt. I aim only to redreſs the wrong done to the memory of an injured lady, one whom your ungovernable phrenzy would have ſacrificed to a lawleſs paſſion; but as ſhe had a ſoul above revenge, I undertake to give you back your forfeited life, a life you now owe to the love I bore

bore that beſt of women. He acknowledged the force of all I ſaid, and we ſeemed to part in better temper with each other, than when we met.

Nothing can ſhew a greater want of ſenſe; nothing betrays a man into more embarraſſments, than being too free of ſpeech in public company. We know not whom we talk before, nor how far the perſons we ſpeak to are intereſted in what we ſay. An unguarded tongue has frequently coſt me an unhappy hour; it had nearly coſt Lord S. his life.

Though I was hurried by the reſpect I bore the memory of my Eliza into this act, and it ended without any fatal conſequences, I cannot but condemn the too general practice of duelling upon the ſlighteſt occaſions. There is ſuch an inconſiſtent etiquette in theſe affairs of honour, that nothing but the abſurdeſt cuſtom can juſtify. A man will,

will, by his conduct and declarations, pride himſelf in being a raſcal; and if any one ſhould preſume to ſubſcribe to the character he is pleaſed to give himſelf, he calls him out, determining, as *his moſt humble ſervant*, to cut his throat as ſoon as poſſible. And though ſuch perſons meet the greateſt enemies, and endeavour to rob each other of life, a few minutes ſhall make them the beſt friends in the world. If there be any argument in its favour, it is that of keeping gentlemen within the bounds of civility to each other; but when we conſider how far it is often ſtrained, it is to be lamented, that ſome powerful means are not taken to aboliſh it. By this wicked cuſtom, not only the precepts of Chriſtianity, but the rules of right reaſon, good ſociety, and virtuous converſation are inverted. The vain, the impudent, and unprincipled, inſult the modeſt, the diſcreet, and

the virtuous; and what adds to this evil is, that perſons of the greateſt worth, and the higheſt ſenſe of honour, are moſt liable to be involved in the dangers ariſing from this licentious practice: ſo that as things are, it is not to do handſome actions, that denominates a man of honour; it is enough if he dares defend ill ones at the riſk of his life. This often brings a common ſharper into competition with a man of rank. If he has been received among gentlemen, it is all that is required. Duels too often proceed from ſome raſh coxcomb's perſiſting in the wrong, defending ſome prevailing folly, or from an unwillingneſs to own a miſtake, though ever ſo groſs. To perſiſt in the wrong, can never be attributed to a greatneſs of ſpirit; nor is it a diminution of that greatneſs to have been in the wrong; perfection is not the attribute of man, nor is he degraded

graded by the acknowledgment of an imperfection. In common life, we ſee an ingenuous kind of behaviour not only make up for faults committed, but in a manner expiate them in the very commiſſion; and it appears to me to be an act of the higheſt ſenſe of honour, to make conceſſions where offence is given. An acknowledgment of offence made from poorneſs of ſpirit, and not conviction of heart, is by no means commendable; but where both the notice is taken, and the return made in private, the affair begins and ends with the higheſt grace to both parties. The perſon who ſays he did not deſign to offend us, ſays as much, as that though the circumſtance which diſpleaſed was never in *his* thoughts, he has that reſpect for us, that he cannot be ſatisfied till it is wholly out of *our's*. And I muſt believe, that he who would rather take a man's life than

than ſuch an acknowledgment or apology, cannot be a truly brave man; but his courage is an impoſture, made up of cowardice, falſehood, and want of underſtanding. The gentlemen of Ireland are very capricious in points of honour: I admire their feelings, but I condemn their raſhneſs. The following ſtory will explain my ideas.

A young gentleman of my acquaintance, heir to an eſtate in Ireland, found it neceſſary to go over to take poſſeſſion of it; but, ſetting, perhaps, a greater value upon his life than it deſerved, and knowing the haſty temper of the Iriſh, and his own feelings as a man, he dreaded the thoughts of venturing into a country where he conceived it almoſt next to an impoſſibility of coming away again in a whole ſkin, till the following thought reconciled it to him. He reſolved, during the whole time he was abroad, never

to

to go into the company of any one who wore a ſword. He was there upwards of ſix weeks, had engaged for his paſſage on his return home, and was bleſſing himſelf the day before he was to ſail, on his prudence and diſcretion; but to leave Ireland, and ſee nothing of the world there, would be ridiculous. Now, his notions of the world were, to ſpend a few hours at a bagnio: he determined, therefore, to paſs his laſt evening at one of thoſe houſes, where he met with a couple of ladies, the only two in the houſe, whom he propoſed to entertain with a ſupper. Whilſt this was preparing, the waiter entered with, "there "is a gentleman in the houſe, Sir, "whoſe name is Patrick Shilalah; he "ſends his compliments to your ho-"nour, and begs you'll permit him to "be of your party." At this meſſage, my friend's prudence took the alarm,

and he returned the following: "Make "my compliments to the gentleman, "and tell him, as I have not the ho- "nour to be known to him, and as "my ſtay here will be very ſhort, I "hope he will excuſe me." The waiter ſoon returned, with Mr. Patrick Shilalah's compliments; and "if "you won't admit of his company, he "begs he may have one of the ladies." "Do, my dear Jenny," ſays my friend to one of the girls, "do—pray—— "go to the gentleman." She accordingly went, but the waiter was again diſpatched, with "The gentleman's "compliments, and begs the other "lady, for he does not like the one he "has." Vexed and diſappointed, and not thinking either of the girls worth fighting for, he prevailed on the other to go alſo, and in the height of this mortification called for the ſupper; when the waiter told him, "it

"was

" was carried in to Mr. Patrick Shila-
" lah and the ladies." Irritated be-
yond meaſure at this treatment, he at
firſt meditated revenge; but on cooler
conſideration, as he was not known,
was going for England in the morn-
ing, and ſhould probably never be in
Ireland again, he deemed it beſt to
pocket the affront, and make the beſt
of his way home to his lodgings;
where he had ſcarcely got into bed,
but a loud knock was heard at the
door, and ſoon after, his ſervant came
into his room with, " There is a gen-
" tleman below, Sir, who calls him-
" ſelf Patrick Shilalah, and ſays, that
" being conſcious he has not treated
" you as he ſhould have done, is
" come to offer you gentleman's ſa-
" tisfaction." " Good God! Tho-
" mas," replied my friend, " make
" my compliments to the gentleman,
" tell him, I am in bed, or I would

" wait on him, and that I am not the " leaſt offended with any part of his " conduct, being rather happy it was " in my power to contribute to his " amuſements." This ſent Mr. Patrick Shilalah off, and my friend, unwilling to truſt himſelf an hour longer on Iriſh ground, haſted on board the packet, and waited there till it ſailed.

CHAP. VI.

A new Character or two. The Pride of the Iriſh Gentry. A ſingular Character in High Life. The Advantages of Wealth.

BEING now in ſome repute as an author, I had a viſit from the clergyman whom I have ſpoken of before in the Fourth Chapter as a *Nealogiſt* *. He introduced himſelf to me, by ſaying, that he ſhould have thought himſelf unpardonable, had he omitted to *ſalutate* † a gentleman to whom *erudites* ‡ were ſo much indebted. He appeared to me to be an *outrée*

* A ſpeaker of new words.
† Pay his reſpects to.
‡ Men of erudition.

character, and as ſuch I cultivated his acquaintance. He obſerved to me, that the *literati* were obliged to him for a variety of new-coined words, which he intended to preſent to the proprietors of dictionaries; and in this, he flattered himſelf, he ſhould be of more real ſervice to the age than all the lexicographers and writers who had gone before him; that circumlocution was not only expenſive to the breath, but tireſome to the ear; that the beauty of diction conſiſted in its being full and nervous, and that the ſhorter a ſentence, the more perfect it was, and the leſs attention it required; that pleonaſm might be a figure in rhetoric, but it was the rhetoric of former ages, when a man was eſteemed for his *ſuperabundity* * of words; "but now," ſays he, "the "leſs a man ſays, the more he is ſup-

* Superabundance,

"poſed

" poſed to think; and a *cogitator* * is " always conſidered as an *intelligent* †." This was all ſaid with that volubility of tongue, and rapidity of utterance, as ſcarce to admit of his taking breath, much leſs of leaving me an opportunity to reply. He next proceeded to tell me, that he had an univerſal acquaintance in the literary world; that he correſponded with every author of reputation, both abroad and at home, and had the firſt intelligence and copy of every publication, either printed, or deſigned for the preſs. He told me he was going to pay a viſit to his friend Dr. Pompoſo, a very extraordinary character, but a great *erudite*, and aſked me to accompany him. Wiſhing to be acquainted with men of learning, I accepted his invitation, and cheerfully went with him.

* A thinking man.

† A man of underſtanding.

As we were walking to this man's houſe, he informed me that Dr. Pompoſo was a warm friend to writers of this country, but would not admit that real learning had ever extended beyond it. "Nay," ſays he, "his predilection "for England ſo *abducts* * him, that "he avers they are all blockheads on "the other ſide the Tweed." He told me, that when Abernethy firſt publiſhed thoſe ſermons which were not known to be his, by any *upography* † in the title-page ("except "by me," ſays he, with a kind of triumphant nod, "and I was ſilent,") they fell in Pompoſo's way. Enraptured with the arguments, and raviſhed with the diction, he carried a volume always in his pocket, and introduced it every where as the ſtandard of correct language. But unfortunately the

* Carries him ſo far. † Name ſubſcribed.

ſecond

ſecond edition appeared with the author's name affixed. The volume was no longer *circumgeſted* *; he forgot, or wiſhed to forget, both the ſermons and their author. It happened, however, one day, that one of his *neceſſarii* †, who ſpoke always from Pompoſo's mouth, had been *depredicating* ‡ in company Abernethy's language, and requeſted from the doctor a ſight of the volume, to verify his aſſertions. He replied that he had never ſeen Abernethy's ſermons. "What!" retorts his friend, "not that Abernethy, "whoſe language you extol as a mo-"del of perfection?" "Perfection!" returns he angrily; "I never knew a "*Scotchman*, yet that could write a "line of grammar."

When we reached Pompoſo's houſe, I was introduced to him as one of

* Carried about him. † Intimate friends.
‡ Crying up.

the literati, whom he muſt *ſuperbiate to receive. He never moved from his chair, but (which was in him a great mark of condeſcenſion) deſired me to be ſeated. He had ſeveral perſons with him, who ſeemed to have been writing, for each had a pocket-book and pencil in his hand. Pompoſo was very near-ſighted, and being bent with age, his head hung down ſo much, that his chin reſted upon his boſom; of courſe he could ſee nothing right before him. This happened to be his levee day, and his apartment was crowded. On our being ſeated among the reſt, he grumbled forth, "That "the *literati* of the preſent times were "but few; that the æra of learning "had long gone by, and that latter "pretenders to it were but quacks in "the republic of letters; that litera-

* Be proud.

" ture had been poiſoned by the mo-
" dern diſpenſers of words; and that
" without ſpeedy correction and illu-
" mination in ſcience, we ſhould fall
" back into the barbariſms of darker
" ages." Scarce did he utter a word, but every one in the room, except ourſelves, had his pencil to his paper, and was copying from his mouth, as if he had been an oracle. The perſons preſent, I found, were a parcel of ſcribblers, who, by adulation and praiſe, were admitted to viſit him, and who, by ſtarting different topics, generally brought away with them a much greater ſtore of ideas than they carried there. It was a ſcene that entertained me for the moment, but which I never cared to renew.

On my obſerving to my new acquaintance, that, though education generally poliſhed the manners of the world, it ſeemed, with reſpect to him, to have loſt its influence, for that he

appeared to me to be quite a cynic, and a *Hottentot*, he admitted my obſervation to be juſt. "With all his "learning and his knowledge," ſays he, "he is a bear in his man-"ners, and looks down with an "affected pity on men who have "little elſe than their rank or their "fortune to diſtinguiſh them. The "man of ſcience," will he often ſay, "is a kind of intellectual being, whom "the Creator has thought proper to "illighten with ſome rays of his di-"vinity, and in the ſcale of humanity "is truly *great*; whereas he who is "diſtinguiſhed only from the crowd "by a title, is ſcarce more than a "contemptible reptile, who envying "the ſuper-eminence of his fellow-"creature, ſues to his prince for that "*little* trifling honour which ſelf-"created dignity has to beſtow upon "a paraſite; and when beſtowed, af-"fords the perſon on whom it is con-

"ferred

" ferred as little reaſon to boaſt, as a " favourite ſpaniel has, in the appel- " lation of the high-ſounding names " of *Cæſar* or *Pompey*; the titles of " *honour*, *lordſhip*, and *grace*, being " only repetitions to a man whom the " king has ordered to be ſo called, " but no evidences that he has any " thing in himſelf to merit theſe ap- " pellations. So far is he from being " a reſpecter of perſons, that he will " deſpiſe and deride even thoſe who " ſerve him.

" Dr. Pompoſo was formerly a poli- " tical writer, violent againſt the mi- " niſtry; and as he wrote with a keen- " neſs and ſeverity that would have " placed ſome men in the pillory, to " ſtop his mouth, the miniſter, who " was a Scotchman, thought proper " to penſion him: but this did not " abate his animoſity to the Scottiſh " nation, to which he was an avowed " enemy. A friend of his has ſince

" told

" told me, that he accompanied him
" once to receive his penſion. ' Our
' converſation,' ſays he, ' all the way,
' was on the iniquity of employing
' Scotchmen in affairs of ſtate; and
' Pompoſo was ſo warm upon the ſub-
' ject, that he kept it up all the way
' we went; nay, he continued it even
' whilſt he was counting his money.
' One,—two,—five,—ten,—twenty.—
' The North Briton *,' ſays he, ' has
' been, however, of ſome uſe:—
' Twenty-five,——twenty-eight;——it
' has turned one d--mn'd Scotchman
' out of place:' (this was the man that
penſioned him.) —' Thirty,—thirty-
' five,—forty,—forty-five—Theſe raſ-
' cals, I fear, will be the ruin of this
' country at laſt.' And at this rate
" did he proceed, railing at, and
" abuſing the people to whom he was
" moſt indebted. He had once been

* A violent paper againſt adminiſtration.

" in

" in the pay of the bookſellers, but " being a ſingle man, whoſe wants " were but few, he ſoon determined " that a hireling writer is at beſt but a " proſtitute; and when they would " employ him no longer, he dropped " the profeſſion."

The Marquis of G. called on me a few mornings after, and ſaid the whole town rung with my commendation. He had a friend of his, he ſaid, who wiſhed to be acquainted with me, and if agreeable to me, he would attend me there to dinner. I accepted the invitation, and accompanied him. This new acquaintance is a man (Lord W.) whoſe grandfather was in trade, but who, from making a great noiſe in the Houſe of Commons, has been lately created an Iriſh baron. He has to boaſt of great moral virtue and ſome parts; but as much confined in worldly knowledge as is his walk in the

the broad way of life. Having travelled into Italy, he brought away with him a large collection of pictures, and boaſted to us that he had ſpared no expence, for that he had had them all copied from the originals. Being a conſtant attendant at the palace, he is maſter of etiquette, and the doctrine of courts no one knows better; but ſo dim-ſighted is he in other reſpects, that he can ſee nothing beyond the blaze of majeſty. Owing his elevation in life more to chance than family or connexions, and having but a circumſcribed fortune, he has little or no dignity, but what he owes to the favour of his prince; of courſe, the little rank he has, is the only thing on which he hangs or depends for reſpect; and leſt any one about him ſhould loſe ſight of that rank, he is always talking of it, bringing it forward, and blazoning it abroad, and will not fail to tell you how

how gracious the king was to him on the laſt levee day. He affects to be a great man, and believes himſelf to be ſo, but it is only as far as mimickry makes him. Thus, he puts me in mind of a poor gentleman, deſcended from one of the kings of Ireland, and who, wrapt up in family pride, has retired into an obſcure part of that country, with a patrimony of fourſcore pounds a year, and who, amid wretchedneſs and beggary, is ſerved upon the knee, and never receives any one, but he offers him his hand to kiſs. Indeed, the pride of the Iriſh is inſufferable. The ſons of a gentleman are all bred up in that ſtyle, though the father's eſtate is ſo ſmall as not to admit of his giving them a ſhilling: hence they come over to England, and commence fortune-hunters. I once knew a baronet's widow who had two ſons; the eldeſt took the family eſtate, about eight hundred

hundred pounds a year, but was obliged to pay his brother one thouſand pounds on his mother's death, who had, during her life, a jointure of two hundred pounds a year out of this eſtate. An Engliſh gentleman of her acquaintance, who had formerly been in buſineſs, adviſed her ladyſhip to put this younger ſon into trade, and ſettle him in England; but her family pride ſtood ſo much in her way, that ſhe could not bring herſelf to think of it. Some time, however, afterwards, ſhe altered her mind; and as the proviſion made for her younger ſon was ſo very ſmall, and ſhe had not intereſt to get him any proper appointment, ſhe brought him to England, and applied to her friend, who before adviſed the meaſure. "I "begin now to think, Mr. Wiſeman," ſays ſhe, "that the Engliſh are a better "kind of people than repreſented, and "that trade is not ſo deſpicable as I

"once

" once conceived; of courſe, ſhall " have no objections to my ſon's liv- " ing among them, and entering into " ſome commercial connexions. If " you can meet with any reſpectable " place, and fix him in ſome genteel " buſineſs, that he can follow without " diſcredit, I ſhall think myſelf obliged " to you." This gentleman, as a friend to the family, intereſted himſelf in the matter, and took ſome pains to find out a houſe, where, when the young gentleman had ſerved his time, he might be received as a partner, and be likely, in a few years, to get a good fortune; and having found ſuch a place, he flew with alacrity to the lady, and told her, in the warmth of his heart, how fortunate he had been. " As I knew you was our friend," ſays her ladyſhip, " I conceived you the " beſt perſon in the world to apply to " in the buſineſs. Pray, Mr. Wiſe-

" man

" man, what is the profeſſion?" " A " biſcuit-baker, Ma'am," ſays he.— Panic-ſtruck at the word, " *Biſcuit-* " *baker!*" ſhe cried out: " Would " you make Sir Harry Lofty's ſon a " *biſcuit-baker!*" " Why indeed, Ma- " dam," returns Mr. Wiſeman, piqued at her folly, " I have rather miſ- " taken the matter here; I did not " properly conſider it." " I was very " ſure you had not," replies the lady, ſoftening her voice, " or a biſcuit- " baker could have never entered into " your thoughts." " Your ladyſhip is " perfectly right," ſays her friend; " Had I thought well upon the ſub- " ject, I never ſhould have propoſed " it; for, on further conſideration, " was the whole family eſtate to be " realized, and converted into mo- " ney, it would not be ſufficient to " ſet him up in buſineſs."—But to re- turn to my narrative. If at any time

Lord

Lord W. is familiar with an inferior, it is when he is not ſeen. The man he thinks proper to receive when in the country, and pretends there to love and eſteem, he will be out of countenance at in public; he will ſhun him when in London, and if in company with men of rank, will ſcarce honour him with a nod. He will viſit none in his neighbourhood that are not titled; and at times, is afraid to ſtoop his head even to a tenant, for fear of committing himſelf. He will know no man that is not generally known, will follow nothing but inconſtancy, admire nothing but beauty, and honour nothing but fortune. Though he is affectedly attentive to thoſe below him, when they fall in his way, and the eye of the world is not upon him; yet he draws back when they are addreſſing him, as if infection was in their breath, and is all *gooſeſkin*

at

at a low-bred man. He dares not ſalute a man in old clothes, or unfaſhionably dreſſed; and will go ſo far as to confeſs vices he is a ſtranger to, provided thoſe vices are in faſhion. He is ſeen at every public place of genteel reſort; attends the theatre without an *eye*, and the opera-houſe without an *ear*.

To enter further into his character; he is ſervile to thoſe above him, and overbearing to thoſe below him. Before the learned he is dumb, and before the ignorant, loquacious and poſitive. He neither eats nor drinks like other men. All his hens are *poulards*; his cocks, *capons*; his farm-yard ducks, *Rouen*; all his ſherry is *Xeres*; all his champaigne, *Sillery*; and his *park* you may fire acroſs in almoſt every direction. If you will believe him, he gives a great price for every thing he purchaſes: his butler is his *valet*; his coachman, his *ſteward*; and his huntſman,

man, his *game-keeper*; and yet he diſtinguiſhes them according to the offices they are employed in. He talks of his *ſteward* to his tenants, and his *game-keeper* to the neighbouring farmers. In ſhort, he is all vanity and parade; and, inſtead of giving conſequence to his ſituation, by any dignity in himſelf, like all *novi homines*, or upſtart gentlemen, he is forced to derive all his conſequence from it.

At this nobleman's houſe, I think I met with, next to himſelf, the moſt ſingular character in life. A man in whom the two oppoſite extremes of peace and war were united. He was a clergyman, and at the ſame time a ſoldier, *miles atque ſacerdos*, and went by the name of Brigadier Moſes. He was dreſſed in a ſhort black ſilk caſſock, with a regimental coat over it, ſcarlet turned up with black, and laced with gold. Inſtead of the black ſaſh or circingle

circingle which the clergy wear round their waiſt, he had a red ſaſh, and above the gorget he wore upon his breaſt, was a clerical band. He had on his head a brigadier wig with two tails; a ſmart cocked gold-laced hat, with a cockade; a *couteau de chaſſe* by his ſide, and a pair of ſquare-toed ſhoes upon his feet. He was a dignitary of the church in Ireland, but had accepted the command of a regiment of volunteers, and was as univerſally reſpected as admired. He employed the whole week in teaching his men their exerciſe, and always preached to them on Sundays; and when he preached, he drew his ſabre, and laid it on his arm, as if reading a proclamation. One of his ſermons has been handed round.—Part of it is as follows:

" *Let*

"*Let us fight the good fight.*"

"Fellow chriſtians and ſoldiers, be-
"hold here your paſtor and leader,
"armed in your defence, ſtanding
"forth in *your* cauſe, as did my pre-
"deceſſor Moſes between *his* people
"and the wrath of the Avenger; and
"be not ſurpriſed at it. A virtuous
"ſoldier is the moſt reſpectable cha-
"racter in life. Enliſted under the
"banner of chriſtianity, though only
"a private, he ſhould take pride in
"wearing the uniform of the Lord of
"hoſts. The chriſtian life is a life of
"warfare, beſieged on all ſides, and
"beſet with perils; perils of water,
"perils of fire, and perils of the ſword;
"but let us fight the good fight, and
"ſtand firm againſt the aſſaults of the
"common enemy; as we cannot hope
"to be well received at the general
"muſter, but through the ſword of

" the ſpirit, the ſhield of faith, and " the helmet of ſalvation," &c.

So full was the Brigadier of his military profeſſion, that he marched acroſs the room, inſtead of walking; and, whenever he turned, he wheeled upon his heel. I found him a cheerful good-natured man, and took the liberty to aſk him, in the courſe of converſation, " Whether he did not " find the tenets of one profeſſion in- " terfere with that of the other?" He told me not; " that a prieſt was " not only to be the father of his flock, " but alſo their *leader*; that the Au- " thor of our religion recommended a " military life to his diſciples. He " that hath no *ſword*," ſaid he, " let " him ſell his garment, and buy one. " When a ſtrong man, *armed*, keepeth " his palace, his goods are in peace. " That the church was a church *mili-* " *tant*; that a chriſtian was taught to

" gird

" gird up his loins, and bind on the " ſword to battle." The Iriſh peer ſupported him in what he had advanced and ſaid, " that his Majeſty, " to whom we ought to look up for " propriety of conduct, had ſet him " the example; for, that he was not " only the head of the church, but the " head of the *army*. As I have, ſince " the age of manhood, ſtood up in de- " fence of religion," ſays the Brigadier, " I mean now to ſtand up in " defence of my country. It has been " ſaid that parſons are cowards; we " will now ſhew them they have a ſpirit " equal to other men, and dare riſe in " a good cauſe. The Roman catho- " lics, who are bigots to their faith, " held not the military profeſſion in- " compatible with the prieſthood. " Cardinal Richlieu was a ſoldier, and " during his adminiſtration, the French " army againſt Spain was commanded

" by a Biſhop. I ſo warmly covet the " independence of my country, that " as *prayers* will not effect it, I will " meet my people in the field, and " try what the *ſword* can do." In ſhort, he was ſuch an enthuſiaſt in politics, that finding it was in vain to argue with him, I endeavoured to change the ſubject.

The company preſent ſeemed very deſirous of being of uſe to me. Lord W. wiſhed to appoint me his *literator*, which office was to cull out the pith of every new publication, and retail it to him at breakfaſt, for he was too indolent to read himſelf. The Brigadier was for my being his Aid-de-Camp; " but for this office," ſays he, " you " muſt get into orders, for all the of- " ficers under me are clerical. My " ſub-dean is my lieutenant colonel; " the chancellor of the dioceſe is my " major; the prebendaries are my " captains;

" captains; the ſubalterns are the mi-
" nor canons of the cathedral; the
" adjutant is our precentor, and all the
" non-commiſſioned officers are made
" up of vergers, beadles, &c. As to
" the common rank and file, there is
" nothing ſpiritual among them; if
" they deal at all in the *ſpirit*, it is in
" what goes into the mouth, not what
" comes out of it."

But the Marquis, who had already preſented me with a penſion, gave me to underſtand, that he meant to be farther uſeful to me. He took me aſide, and told me he had a favourite meaſure to carry in parliament; but as it was rather unpopular, he wiſhed me to take it up, and write in its favour; " for," ſays he, " it muſt be a bad " cauſe, indeed, that cannot be de-
" fended." I found myſelf well-diſ-poſed to ſerve him, and promiſed him every aſſiſtance in my power.

During this viſit at Lord W.'s, which, indeed, I mentioned to have an opportunity of laying before my readers two of the moſt extraordinary characters I had met with, that of Lord W. himſelf, and his worthy friend the Brigadier; a letter was brought me by a porter, ſaying, "a "gentleman had called at my houſe "with it that afternoon, and deſired it "might be forwarded to me immedi-"ately." I begged leave to open it, and found it to be written by my old friend, Mr. Slaſh'em, the vicar of the pariſh where I was bred, in Notts, and informed me, that my father's uncle was dead, and that his eſtate fell to me, as being the next in the entail; all the children of my father's elder brother having dropped off before him. I could not refrain from communicating this piece of news to the company I was with, and they congratulated me upon

upon the event. It is aſtoniſhing to reflect on the immediate conſequence of a good fortune. I found inſtantly a difference in their behaviour. They were very polite and reſpectful before, but their attention to me rather carried a patronizing air with it; they ſhould always be happy to *know* me, and *receive* me; but the inſtant my fortune was announced, we were upon an equality; I muſt come into parliament, a borough was open for me; and if I would ſupport government, it ſhould not coſt me but two thouſand pounds; every expence beyond that ſum ſhould be paid for me. I thanked them very kindly for their good wiſhes, but begged ſome little time to conſider of it. It is wonderful what a great alteration in our favour a good fortune makes; it is far beyond education, ingenuity, or brilliancy of parts. Let a man paſs by, ever ſo meanly clad;

obſerve to your friend that he is ſuppoſed to be worth one hundred thouſand pounds, he ſtares at him again and again, and looks on him as a prodigy. As when wealth and proſperity forſake a man, we diſcover in him that want of underſtanding, which was undiſcoverable before; ſo when they ſhine upon a perſon, we preſently ſee perfections in him, which no one was able to find out till then. So ſtrange a diſproportion does a little money or the want of it make between men! Mrs. Saintly, whilſt the wife of a minor canon, ſtole into the cathedral unnoticed. She carried her haſſock in her hand, placed it in a corner, and could be as devout as ſhe pleaſed, uninterrupted; but when ſhe became a biſhop's lady, ſhe was conducted into the quoir by the vergers, placed in a ſtall of eminence, ſervice did not begin till ſhe was ſeated, and the eyes

of

of all the women were upon her. On the other hand, Squander, the once wealthy ſon of Gripus, and then idolized, having laviſhed away all his patrimony, is carried to the grave unattended and unlamented.

CHAP. VII.

Our Author is kidnapped, and carried on board a Veſſel. His Eſcape.

IN conſequence of the information I received, I prepared to ſet off for Nottinghamſhire; but, as *ill* fortune too often chequers our *good*, an unexpected event happened, that overthrew all my meaſures. Having left London pretty early in the morning, with a view of getting to the end of my journey before night, I found myſelf on the edge of Finchley Common, about ſeven miles from town, at ſunriſe, when two men, well mounted and armed, ſtopped my poſtillion. I had a loaded blunderbuſs in the chaiſe, and would certainly have diſcharged the

the contents at them, had they not ſcreened themſelves from my vengeance, by getting ſo much before the lad that drove me, that had I fired, I muſt inevitably have killed him. I looked out for my ſervant, who was likewiſe armed, but he was not within ſight; and at this moment, two other men were behind the chaiſe, and ſwore, that if I did not immediately throw out my blunderbuſs, and ſurrender, they would blow out my brains through my forehead, for they were not robbers, but King's officers. In this critical ſituation, I had no alternative; I complied with their injunctions, and aſked them what they wanted. They gave me to underſtand, that they had a warrant to apprehend me, and that I muſt ſubmit to go with them: that, if I was governable, they would uſe me well; but if I made any oppoſition, they ſhould

be obliged to bind me. I aſked them by what authority they acted, and what was the cauſe of my being ſo ſeized. They produced a written paper, apparently a warrant, containing a charge of my having broken the peace, by challenging the Earl of S. and attempting to take away his life in Hyde Park. Scarce had they announced their buſineſs, but an empty poſt-chaiſe came up, into which they inſiſted upon my removing, having firſt ſearched me for fire-arms, and took away my blunderbuſs. I begged they would permit me to take my portmantua with me, which contained my neceſſaries, and ſuffer me to wait for my ſervant, who was behind. They told me, they had ſecured my ſervant before they overtook me, and that he was taken back to town; that my luggage, which was not more than a few ſhirts, and a ſecond coat, I might take

take with me, if I pleaſed, provided I would diſcharge the poſt-chaiſe in which I then was, and go quietly with them. In this I acquieſced, and a few minutes put me completely into their poſſeſſion. One of the men got into the chaiſe with me, two rode before, and the other brought up the rear, leading the horſe of him who was ſeated by me. I addreſſed myſelf to my new companion ſeveral times, with "Where are you going to carry me?" "This is not the way to town," and the like (for I found they had quitted the north road, and had got into one I was unacquainted with), but I could get nothing from him; ſo that I was obliged to abandon myſelf to my reflections, which were not the moſt pleaſing I had experienced; for I conceived this (as I afterwards found it) to be a ſecond attempt of Lord S. to kidnap me, which, fortunately for him, ſuc-

ſucceeded better than the firſt. I was hurried, as faſt as the horſes could go, acroſs the country, and in about three hours arrived at the Thames ſide, a little below Grays in Eſſex, where my fellow traveller, with great compoſure, conſigned me to the care of the maſter of a veſſel lying off the ſhore, and then ready to ſail. He now gave me to underſtand, that I was obliged to the lenity of Lord S. for the diſpoſal he was a going to make of me; for that, if I had been carried before a magiſtrate, I ſhould have had a much more diſagreeable lodging, as Newgate in that caſe would have been my place of reſidence for ſome time, and my exit would be at Tyburn; that, if I behaved well where I was going, his lordſhip would be always my friend; but that to live in the ſame land with me, he never could think of doing. I inquired the place the veſſel was bound

to,

to, but could get no anſwer: finding, therefore, that I was likely to be abſent from home for ſome time, I requeſted leave to write a letter to a friend or two, to arrange my affairs, which my conductor conſented to my doing, and promiſed they ſhould be faithfully delivered, provided he ſaw the contents, and that they gave no information where I might be found. This being promiſed, I was ſuffered to go down into the cabin, in company with this ſame man, and write my letters. The firſt I wrote was to Mr. Slaſh'em, the vicar, acknowledging the receipt of his, and to remove any doubt of its being ſent, I told him, that as buſineſs of the higheſt importance obliged me to quit England for ſome time, and of courſe would prevent my being with him as I intended, I requeſted and authorized him to take ſuch meaſures as he ſhould think neceſſary

ceſſary to ſecure my property till my return, for which he ſhould have my beſt thanks. I alſo deſired him to take care of my houſe and property in town, having left it without giving my ſervants any directions, but that he would find my people obedient to his commands, as I had wrote home and ordered them ſo to be.—The other letter I wrote, was to my houſe-keeper in town, enjoining her to follow Mr. Slaſh'em's directions till ſhe ſaw me. Theſe letters my conductor was pleaſed to approve, and aſſured me, they ſhould be carefully conveyed, according to the addreſſes. I begged they might both be ſent expreſs, and he promiſed they ſhould.—I was now a little more at my eaſe, and flattered myſelf I ſhould find ſome means of regaining my liberty. My conductor and his attendants ſhortly after took their leave, and wiſhed me a good voyage,

voyage, and we ſoon ſet ſail.—The veſſel I was in was a ſmall one of about one hundred tons burden; and our ſhip's company conſiſted of a Jew (not a cabin paſſenger), the maſter, and five ſeamen. The veſſel did not ſeem heavy laden, nor could I learn to what place ſhe was bound. The captain appeared to be a plain man, and of few words, and thoſe few he was maſter of, he ſeemed to withhold, for I could ſcarce get him to ſpeak.—I had reaſon, however, to believe, that he was appointed to carry me to ſome diſtant part, for I remarked, that in our paſſage down the river, he kept at ſome diſtance from ſhore, where any town was near, and was careful not to go too cloſe to any veſſel upon the river, leſt, I ſuppoſe, I might have been induced to call out for aſſiſtance. The tide ſerved, and the wind blowing briſk, we were ſoon at the Nore; and

and wiſhing for ſome refreſhment, I was preſently accommodated with what, at ſea, is thought a good dinner (ſalt beef and biſcuit), but which I found very little appetite for: however, I eat a few mouthfuls, drank a little rum and water, and laid me down upon the bed in the cabin, where, with the fatigue, I fell faſt aſleep; my watch told me it was nine in the evening when I laid down, and when I awoke, it was five in the morning. My ſleep was rather broken, from a bed I was unuſed to, and the troubles of the day; but, broken as it was, it calmed my mind, and gave me relief. I had now time to think, and nothing to interrupt me; the captain with his men were buſy upon deck, and the veſſel ſeemed going very faſt. On my aſcending from the cabin, I found we were on the open ſea, and out of ſight of land. Aſking the captain where we were, he

ſaid

ſaid in the Channel (which I afterwards found was not true), and on my enquiring to what place he was bound, he replied to Nova Scotia. Having in my portmanteau about fifty pounds in bank notes, and a diamond ring worth about as much, I determined to try the power of a bribe, and ſee whether I could not prevail on him to put me on ſhore ſomewhere in England. Accordingly, I requeſted the favour of a quarter of an hour's converſation with him, the firſt leiſure he had. He ſoon indulged me with it, and when together, I made him acquainted with my ſituation, and the whole hiſtory of Lord S.'s behaviour to Miſs Wildman, and to me, and endeavoured to work upon his feelings, by repreſenting the treachery of his employer, and the cruelty with which he treated me. Whether he believed me or not, I cannot ſay, but he liſtened with great attention,

tention, pauſed when I had done; and when I expected him to have joined iſſue with me, he roſe from his ſeat, and was going to leave me, with, "if he "is as bad-conditioned, meſſmate, as "you ſay, d-mn me if the ſame veſſel "ſhould hold us; you may be happy "you're ſhipped off for another coun-"try;" I importuned him to ſtay, told him I was maſter of fifty pounds, and a ring worth as much more; that, if he would put me aſhore in ſome part of England, or on board ſome veſſel going there, both ſhould be at his ſervice; at which he grew warm—"a "bribe!" exclaimed he, "did you ever "know an Engliſh ſeamen run from "his colours, or betray his cauſe for "a bribe? D-mn me, they ſhall never "ſay that of Jack Hawſer." "Not "betray a *good* cauſe," replied I, "but "there's merit ſurely in overturning a "*bad* one." "Harkee, meſſmate—

"that's

" that's the commodore's look-out;
" my orders are to make for Nova
" Scotia, and there you go, my friend,
" unleſs we bulge in the paſſage." At this he left me, crying to the man at the helm, " Luff up, my lad," and to the man forward, " Hoiſt the " main-top-ſail; we'll make all the " way we can.——D-mn me, here's a " fine breeze."

I began now to think of my poor Eliza and her little infant, and for the firſt time, found a ſatisfaction in reflecting they were out of the reach of being affected by *my* misfortunes. " Whatever is, is beſt;" ſo ſays philoſophy: here ſhe is right. Had my Eliza been living, ſhe would not only have felt this accident ſeverely, but I ſhould have *doubly* felt it; have felt for *her* as well as for myſelf. She, however, thought I, is happy, and why ſhould I be otherwiſe? My property

perty is ſafe in Mr. Slaſh'em's care, and as I am in health, and ſtand alone in life, what matters it, whether I am going to Nottingham, or Nova Scotia? I have encountered many a difficulty, and overcome them all.—Providence has hitherto protected me—why ſhould I diſtruſt it now?

I was led once or twice, when the captain was below, to endeavour to bring over the ſailors to my intereſt, but conſidering, that had I not ſucceeded, the captain might have rendered my ſituation far more diſagreeable than it was, I thought it beſt to deſiſt.

The next day, an accident happened that extricated me from my difficulty. The veſſel, owing to the careleſſneſs of the ſteerſman, ſtruck upon a bank, and ſprung a leak. "All hands to the "pump, or by G—d, we are at the "bottom," was the cry—but it was the

the cry of one of the foremaſtmen: diſagreeable as my ſituation was before, it was much worſe now. We were ſuppoſed to be ſeven leagues from land, and the ſea run too high, to think ourſelves in any ſafety—the veſſel made water ſo faſt, that the maſter deſpaired of ſaving her; however, he conſoled himſelf in the idea of being inſured more than ſhe was worth, and determined to take to his boat. "We "may pump her to land," ſays one of the ſailors, "very well." "Hold your "jaw," ſays the Captain, "or I'll "unſhip ſome of your teeth; I ſhall "get more by her ſinking than her "ſwimming, ſo let her ſink and be "d—mned." Hoiſt out the boat, was the next cry, the command of the Captain. The boat *was* hoiſted out, and being too ſmall to take any part of our baggage, we were obliged to leave it behind; indeed, ſo frightened was I, hav-

I, having never been at ſea before, that I thought little of my baggage; *my* attention was confined to my perſon. The Jew's heart, on the contrary, was fixed on his treaſure, upon his travelling box, which he was careful to take into the boat with him; but the Captain (after I and the five ſeamen were in) endeavouring to prevent it, and the Jew labouring to ſecure it, ſuch was the ſtruggle between them, that in coming down the ſhip's ſide, they both fell into the ſea, and had very nearly overſet the boat. The Captain was unfortunately ſucked under the veſſel and we ſaw him no more; but the Jew was preſently diſcovered on the ſurface of the water. "D-mn my liver, Jack," ſays one of the ſeamen, "if there is n't "Moſes in the bull-ruſhes;" (for he had long looſe hair, and his face, part appearing above water, with the hair floating around it, favoured the idea;

but my diſtreſs was too great to ſmile at it.) "He's within reach, catch hold "of his poll." Jack caught him by the hair, and raiſing his chin above water; as ſoon as the Iſraelite could recover breath to ſpeak, he cried out, "Vare is my baux? Vare is my "baux?" This ſo exaſperated the fellow who held him, that he quitted his hold, with a "Bl—ſt your eyes, you "ſon of a bitch, look for your box "and be d—mn'd," and the poor wretch ſunk, and we ſaw *him* no more. We were now leſs in number by two, than when we quitted the veſſel, and having the day before us, and the weather not ſo windy as it was, we flattered ourſelves, we ſhould get ſafe to land. In about four hours we ſaw land, and it gave us ſpirits; and another hour put us on ſhore at a little village on the coaſt of Northumberland, not a great way ſouth of Berwick. I now

found, inſtead of ſteering for Nova Scotia, the veſſel I was in, and which ſunk before we were a league from it, was a lobſter ſmack, bound for Shetland, where his lordſhip meant to have tranſported me, and where I ſhould not have readily got away.

Soon after we were landed, it was thought proper that we ſhould go before a magiſtrate and make affidavit of the loſs of the veſſel, for the advantage of thoſe who might be concerned in it. This done, my comrades made the beſt of their way to Newcaſtle, in order to ſhip themſelves on board ſome of the colliers, whereas I took up my abode at a public houſe in the village, determining to wait till I could have remittances from London; for I had brought nothing aſhore with me, of any value but my watch, which I converted into money to anſwer the preſent exigence. I might, indeed, have told

told my tale to ſome of the gentlemen in the neighbourhood, and by that means have got ſome pecuniary relief; but as I wiſhed to ſit quiet for a few days, to recover from my fatigue and anxiety of mind, I thought it beſt to lay myſelf under as few obligations as poſſible. Before the ſailors left me, I made ſome enquiry whether they knew any thing of their Captain or his connexions; they told me not, that they were ſhipped merely for the voyage, and were ſtrangers to him, till a few days before I came on board. All the information I could get was, that they had lain at anchor, on the ſpot where I found them, two days waiting for my arrival.

CHAP. VIII.

On Witchcraft.

THE inhabitants of the county where I was, were very ſuperſtitious, the remains of the old leaven, and were troubled with an old woman, whom they ſuppoſed to be a witch. As far as I could learn, ſhe was harmleſs and inoffenſive; but there was no perſuading the people of this. She went by the name of Black Moll, and lived in a hut on the edge of a neighbouring common. If any thing went amiſs, it was ſure to be laid to her charge, and the poor devil, on that account, led a moſt miſerable life. The whole county was almoſt up in arms againſt her; and even the better kind of people could not help falling in with the

the general infatuation. When I was at the magiſtrate's houſe, to make oath of the loſs of the veſſel, whilſt I waited in the adjoining room, I overheard the following curious converſation between his worſhip, who was a country ſquire, and Snuffle the pariſh clerk:

Enter Snuffle, bowing low to the Juſtice.

Juſtice. Oh, your name is Snuffle, I think,—the pariſh clerk?

Snuffle. Yes; and grave-digger;—at your worſhip's ſervice *(bowing)*.

Juſtice. (ſmiles.) Well,—what is it you want with *me?*

Snuffle. To adviſe with your honour about Black Moll.

Juſtice. It's a dreadful thing that the pariſh is to be ſo tormented with this old hag!

Snuffle. Indeed it is, your worſhip! My poor wife has been bed-ridden by her theſe nine days.

Juſtice. Come, then, perhaps you will find her better to-morrow; for witches, they ſay, can ſeldom get over the number *nine*. If our wiſeacres in London had not repealed the act againſt witchcraft, I could have made an example of her; but, as it is, we can do nothing. The *preſent* parliament are too ſelf-ſufficient to abide by the *wiſdom* of our forefathers.

Snuffle. 'Tis true enough, your honour; they are playing ſtrange tricks now-a-days; ſince they have taxed our ſurplice-fees, they have been very unpopular; I believe, in my heart, they are *all* bewitched.

Juſtice. You don't find it hurts *you*, maſter Snuffle, do you?

Snuffle. Hurt *me*, your worſhip?—It hurts *every body*. The pariſh will come to nothing in a little time. Marriage, indeed, is out of the queſtion; *our* young fellows never think of *that*; but,

but, o' my conſcience, they are ſo angry, I don't think they go the way to get children now, becauſe they won't pay the tax on births. Would you believe it? we have not had but *ſeventeen* baſtards in the pariſh ſince the act took place; and that's now more than *ſeventeen* months.

Juſtice. That is truly to be unpopular.

Snuffle. Nay, they ſeem as if they were determined not to *die.* I have not tolled the bell theſe three weeks.

Juſtice. That's not a bad ſign, is it?

Snuffle. Certainly it is a bad ſign; it is a ſign that my place will not be worth keeping, if things go on ſo.—It will be the ruin of *me;* and ſo it will of Tom Shreds the taylor; poor fellow, he has not made a ſhrowd this long while!—This tax is even a worſe ſcourge to us than even Black Moll.

Juſtice. Heavens forbid!

Snuffle. Can't your worſhip commit her?

Juſtice. Not ſafely. No one can bring any thing home to her.

Snuffle. Your honour may well ſay, *not ſafely*; for, now I think of it, ſhe would eſcape through the gaol-bars. Tom Shreds ſays he has known her locked into a room, and ſhe has flown out through the key-hole.

Juſtice. It would be ſafer to *drown* her than *commit* her. One might plead common law or cuſtom for that; but to abridge her of her liberty, would be a manifeſt breach of Magna Charta.

Snuffle. Lord love your worſhip! ſhe won't *drown*; we have tried that, you know, often. She ſwims and dives like a duck, and ſlips through our fingers like an eel.

Juſtice. But did you ſearch her for, and ſtrip her of, her pins? for witches

witches will never ſink while they have a pin about them. Did you examine her head and her hair?

Snuffle. Every part of her, your honour, where there was a lock of hair about her.

Juſtice. If ſhe was nothing but a ſpirit, we might get the parſon to lay her, but ſhe is ſometimes a cat, ſometimes a hog, and ſometimes a hare. She gave us a fine run over the moor the other day. Could we have found a freſh, I ſhould have called off the dogs; for, d—mme, if the old bitch did not knock up all our horſes, and kill ſome of my beſt hounds.

Snuffle. How do you know, Sir, it was Black Moll?

Juſtice. We run her two miles before Dick Yoicks, my huntſman, found it out; but when ſhe was in view, he knew her by the pricking of her ears. Had I been at the putting

of her up, I ſhould have known it myſelf, for ſhe f-rts at firſt going off like a ſkittiſh mare.—What ſays your maſter, my neighbour Spintext, to it?

Snuffle. Oh, *he* is *all* for her. He ſays ſhe is an inoffenſive, induſtrious old woman, and he ſees no harm in her. But his reverence may have his views in all this. He contributes nothing to her ſupport, as every one elſe does. She has the whole pariſh under contribution; for when ſhe goes a begging, thoſe who don't give, are ſure to be bewitched, ſome way or other. There's farmer Primroſe's wife,—if ſhe does not conſtantly ſend her buttermilk, the devil an ounce of butter can ſhe get; the old hag is always in the churn.

Juſtice. It is this induſtry, I ſuppoſe, that keeps her out of the workhouſe. Between you and I, maſter Snuffle,

Snuffle, if we could once get her there, we would ſoon have her in the elm-box.

Snuffle. And then it ſhould be *my* fault, if ſhe was ſeen above ground afterwards. I'd give her grave enough. It ſhould be ſo deep, that was ſhe to turn herſelf into a mole, ſhe ſhould not be able to work her way out.—Could there be any harm, your worſhip, in *ſhooting* her?

Juſtice. Not if you could ſhoot her flying.—For what is murder? It is taking away the life of a fellow creature; now, as none of our fellow creatures fly (except in an air-balloon), it can't be murder. The king, they ſay, has long hands, but they will not reach the clouds. Theſe are out of his majeſty's juriſdiction.

Snuffle. But if we kill a partridge flying, the law will lay hold of us.

Juſtice. A *partridge!* Yes, I grant

you; but a partridge in the eye of the law is of more conſequence than twenty old women. Gentlemen are fond of partridges, and chuſe to keep them ſacred to themſelves; whereas they hate old women, and don't care how ſoon the country's rid of them.

Snuffle. Then Dr. Clinch our blackſmith's her man. He has a long gun, and I'll be bound he'll bring her down; for there is ſeldom a ſtorm but ſhe is riding in the thick on't.

So weak and deluded are the people ſtill in ſome country parts of England, that when an old woman begins to doat, and grows chargeable to the pariſh, ſhe is generally reputed to be a witch, and fills the whole country with extravagant fancies, terrifying dreams, and imaginary diſtempers. If her lips move, ſhe is thought to be converſing with the devil; and if ſhe mutters,

mutters, they conclude ſhe is ſaying her prayers backwards. She is ſuppoſed to ſuckle her cats; and if there lies ſo much as a ſmall ſwitch about her habitation, you preſently hear that ſhe rides on this a hundred miles in a night; and when ſhe walks abroad, if ſhe chance to ſtumble, they always find ſticks and ſtraws that lie before her, in the form of a croſs. In the meantime, the poor wretch, who is the innocent occaſion of ſo many evils, begins to be frightened at herſelf, and ſometimes will be perſuaded to confeſs ſecret commerce and familiarities that are poſitively attributed to her by others, and which her imagination forms in extreme old age, when her ſenſes are decayed, and ſhe is become delirious. And though this has often been found to be the real caſe, and perhaps the leading cauſe that induced the legiſlature to repeal the laws againſt witches

witches and witchcraft; this miſtake frequently cuts off charity from the greateſt objects of compaſſion, and inſpires, people with a malevolence towards thoſe poor decrepid parts of our ſpecies in whom human nature is defaced by dotage and infirmity.

CHAP. IX.

Meets with Miſs Slaſh'em. The Folly of Women of the Ton.

BY the time I had been at this place a week, I had ſuch remittances from my banker, as I ſtood in need of, and had heard from home, that all things were well. I then equipped myſelf with thoſe neceſſaries I wanted, namely, a few ſhirts and a ſuit of clothes, and prepared to ſet off once more, took a poſt chaiſe for Nottinghamſhire. Though anxious to call the Earl of S. to account for the treatment I had received, I thought it moſt prudent to pay a viſit to my friend the vicar; and the reader may believe me, when I ſay, that I found myſelf leſs

eager to take this journey now, than I was, when I left London on the ſame occaſion; my expectations were balked by the event I have related, and my ſpirits were not ſo much upon the wing; however, I ſet out, and reached York the firſt night.

The theatre being there open, I went to the play, and who ſhould I meet with, in the ſame box, but Biddy Slaſh'em, dreſſed out with a profuſion of diamonds, in company with an old gentleman, whom I ſuppoſed to be her keeper. She was overjoyed to ſee me, and introduced me to Mr. Dupe, the gentlemen with her, as the ſon of her father's brother, whom ſhe had before repreſented as a clergyman of the firſt character and fortune. He received me very cordially, and, when the play was over, begged to have the honour of my company to ſupper, having a houſe in the town. I accompanied them

them home in their carriage, and was requeſted whilſt I continued at York, to ſleep there. This gave me an opportunity of paſſing an hour or two alone with Miſs Slaſh'em, Mr. Dupe being accuſtomed to ride out every morning before breakfaſt, upon a hard trotting horſe, for the cure of a gouty complaint he had in his ſtomach. The Jew *Doctor* and *Blackſmith* in London, having by his machine to create muſcular exerciſe, made ſuch a regimen faſhionable. This machine, I am told, is merely a board (on which the patient ſtands, holding by an iron) with ſprings under it, worked by an hand-winch, which raiſes and lowers it ſo quick, that in a ſmall ſpace of time it throws the perſon on it into a violent perſpiration, and gives him all the advantages of great exerciſe, without muſcular exertion: a trotting horſe will anſwer the ſame purpoſe, if the rider can undergo

dergo the fatigue. During Mr. Dupe's morning ride, I had the happineſs of a tête-à-tête in Biddy's chamber, and found her as attached to me as ever. I gave her ſome little account of my adventures ſince we parted; and ſhe, in return, related to me the ſequel of her's.

"When you left us, my dear Ga-
"briel," ſays ſhe, "at Wincheſter,
"we were preparing to remove to the
"Devizes; there I continued about
"three weeks, when Mr. Dupe, the
"gentleman I live with, ſeeing me in
"one of my principal characters in his
"way from Bath to London, took a
"liking to me, and made me propo-
"ſals to live with him. Theſe prov-
"ing acceptable, I took leave of the
"Company, quitted my employ, and
"came away with him. He has ſettled
"two hundred pounds a year on me,
"loads me with preſents, and ſays
"he'll

" he'll marry me if I prove with child."
" And you, no doubt," ſays I, " try
" every means you can for it. Well
" if ever you are, it will be within nine
" months of this time."—" Being fond
" of muſic, and admiring my voice,"
continued ſhe, " he has procured me
" the beſt maſters; and ill as I ſung at
" Wincheſter, I am now reckoned the
" firſt private ſinger in England. It
" has been the means of introducing
" me into the beſt company; for, ſo
" affectedly fond are perſons of faſhion
" of muſic, that they will ſacrifice
" every thing to the rage of it. The
" gentry in this part of the country
" readily overlook my ſituation for
" the ſake of my voice, and I viſit,
" and am viſited, by every body round
" me. Nay, I aſſure you I give my-
" ſelf great airs upon theſe occaſions,
" and find the more *box* I take upon
" me, the more I am thought of. I

" never

" never pay a viſit, till I have firſt
" received one; nor does Mr. Dupe
" expect me. The Dutcheſs of D.
" and the Counteſs of R. her ſiſter,
" did us the honour to drink tea with
" us yeſterday. They wiſhed me to
" ſing, and I ſung; but I obliged
" them, during the time I ſung, to ſit
" down upon the ground." 'And
'why ſo?' ſays I. "Oh!——I al-
" ways do that," continued ſhe, "in
" rooms not adapted for muſic; and
" when I ſing at any other houſes but
" my own, where they have not a
" muſic room, I inſiſt upon the win-
" dow curtains being taken down, the
" carpet removed, and all the com-
" pany's ſitting down upon the floor
" but myſelf; for nothing flattens the
" ſound of a voice more than drapery
" furniture, and a number of perſons
" half filling a room 'And do they
'ſubmit to this?' replied I. "Certainly
" they

" they do," ſays ſhe, " and they *muſt*,
" or I would not ſing. They would
" half ſtrip themſelves, if I required
" it, rather than the world ſhould
" fancy they have not the greateſt
" *penchant* for muſic. I know they
" viſit and receive me, merely for my
" ſinging, and that though they bear
" with my oddities, they only laugh
" at me when gone; this determines
" me to laugh in my turn; and as
" Mr. Dupe will not ſuffer me to re-
" ceive any preſents, I am determined
" they ſhall pay for their folly one
" way or other." Though I ſmiled at the conceit, I could not but agree with her, that of all follies, the *toniſh* or faſhionable ones, are the moſt abſurd. " I'll tell you an anecdote, my
" dear Biddy," returned I, " that will
" confirm my aſſertion. Among the
" many people I have mixed with
" ſince I left you, is the lady of Sir
" Peter

" Peter Puncheon, a Creole, from Ja-
" maica. Sir Peter had been formerly
" in trade, had afterwards turned
" planter, and acquired a good for-
" tune. His lady being a woman of
" daſh and ſpirit, perſuaded him to
" leave Jamaica and ſettle in England.
" They accordingly ſold all off, and
" came, and not having a ſoul to in-
" troduce them into that company ſhe
" coveted, ſhe fell upon the following
" plan, which ſucceeded beyond her
" expectations. Having a large houſe
" in London well ſituated, ſhe called
" for the *red book* *, and from a liſt
" ſhe there picked out, and other in-
" formation, ſent cards of invitation to
" a concert and a ball, to all the rout-
" going men and women of rank, to
" the number of ſome hundreds; and
" ſuch was the rage for going to this

* Commonly called the Court Calendar.

" woman's

" woman's houſe, that many, who by
" accident were not invited, made in-
" tereſt for a card; ſo that on the
" evening appointed, there was ſuch
" a throng of coaches and chairs, that
" all the adjoining ſtreets were full.
" She procured a very intelligent ſer-
" vant, acquainted with their names,
" to announce them as they arrived,
" ſhe ſtanding on the top of the ſtairs,
" with her huſband, to receive them.
" In the early part of the evening,
" when they dropped in but thinly,
" ſhe had leiſure to receive them pro-
" perly; and expreſſed how proud
" ſhe was of the honour they did her;
" but in a very little time, they poured
" in ſo thick upon her, that it required
" three men below to announce them,
" and would have required a regiſter
" to have remembered their names.
" It was a taſk beyond her reach, and
" ſhe could only introduce them

" to

" to her huſband in the lump, with,
' a Baronet, my dear; two more Lords;
' a red ribband, and ſo on.'—From
" this ſcheme ſhe immediately became
" a woman of the *ton*, and her houſe,
" from that time, was the faſhionable
" reſort of the firſt people in town.
" They admired her invention, whilſt
" they laughed at her impudence;
" but they continued to viſit her, not-
" withſtanding: for the time of per-
" ſons of faſhion hangs ſo much upon
" their hands, and they enjoy ſo little
" of what the rational world calls ſo-
" cial and domeſtic ſociety, that they
" would run to h—, I believe, if the
" black gentleman would open his
" houſe with a concert, a ball, or a
" card party. By this means ſhe was
" readily known and received in the
" great world, and it very ſoon pro-
" cured her huſband to be created a
" Baronet. This brought them to
" court,

" court, and as people devoid of ele-
" gance, idly ſuppoſe that richneſs of
" dreſs depends upon profuſion, or an
" extra quantity of expenſive attire;
" inſtead of appearing in two laced
" lappets, lady Puncheon was deter-
" mined to have four. It ſo fell out,
" however, that four lappets to a head-
" dreſs being contrary to etiquette,
" ſhe was refuſed admittance, till Sir
" Peter ſet the matter right, by taking
" out a pair of ſciſſars, and cutting off
" two of them. But as the two
" he cut off were on *one* ſide, ſhe
" became the laugh and ridicule of the
" whole drawing-room."

Biddy was delighted with this ſtory, and vowed ſhe would put it in practice as ſoon as ſhe got to London. " Do," ſays I, " Biddy, and I'll be " bound you'll have company enough. " Character and connexion are out of " the queſtion. Open your houſe, " and the buſineſs is done."

Mr. Dupe ſoon after returned from his morning's ride, and found us in his bed-chamber. It a little diſconcerted us; but he quickly put us at our eaſe, with, "ſo, my dear Biddy, "you *would* ſhew your couſin my "knotted bed." Shaking his head at her, and chucking her under the chin: "Ah, you little rogue, you are de- "termined I ſhall not loſe any credit "that you can give me." Then addreſſing himſelf to me: "I knotted "the greateſt part of that fringe my- "ſelf, Mr. What-d'ye-call'em (I can't "think of your name), and I am not "aſhamed to own it; it's better than "galloping a whole country over after "a fox, injuring one's tenants, and "running the chance of breaking one's "neck. Come, Sir, walk down and "ſee my improvements." I thanked him for his politeneſs to me; but told him, I muſt be going, for that I had engagements of the firſt importance

that

that called me into Nottinghamſhire. "Well, Sir," ſays he, "then I'll leave "you together—you may have ſome "little affair to enter into that requires "privacy. I beg, Biddy, you'll ſhew "your couſin all the civility and kind-"neſs you can."

I now took my leave of Miſs Slaſh'em, promiſing to ſee her again as ſoon as ſhe came to London.

CHAP. X.

Takes Poſſeſſion of his Family Eſtate. Gets into Parliament.

THE day after I parted with Miſs Slaſh'em, I got ſafe to her uncle's houſe in Notts, and happy I was to ſee him; nor did he ſhew leſs happineſs in ſeeing me. It was now about three weeks ſince I left London, with a deſign of coming to this place; and I think, in ſo ſhort a ſpace of time, no one met with a greater variety of incidents. I related the ſtory to him; but not a word of his niece. "Ah," ſays he, "you ſee how kind and protecting "the Almighty is; not a ſparrow falls "to the ground without his obſerv-"ance! Lord S. is a very bad man; "and I hope you will be able to "bring

" bring the matter home to him." " That I certainly ſhall," ſays I; " for the redreſs I ſhall look for ſhall " be a perſonal one." As a clergyman, and a very worthy one, he made uſe of every argument to diſſuade me from ſuch a ſtep; but the injuries I had received were ſo great, that they had but little weight with me. I therefore turned the ſubject, and enquired whether he had received my letter. He told me he had, and by an expreſs the day after it was written. So far thoſe fellows who forced me on board the veſſel, acted well. He gave me to underſtand, that my uncle had made a will ſometime before he died, and had left great part of his property to my couſins; but as he out-lived them, the legacies were lapſed, and all the perſonals fell to me, with the entailed eſtate; that he having no relations to be found, and the executor he

had appointed in his will, being alſo deceaſed, letters of adminiſtration were granted to him at his requeſt, and he was ready to put me into poſſeſſion immediately. "I have," ſaid he, "made many enquiries, for ſome years "paſt, about you, but could get no "ſatisfactory intelligence; however, "ſince the death of your uncle, I have "been more induſtrious in this buſi-"neſs, and have found you out. "What was neceſſary to be done in "your abſence has been done; ſuch "as taking an inventory of the effects, "and properly ſecuring them; and I "truſt you will find every thing in as "good order as circumſtances admit-"ted. With reſpect to your houſe in "town, I wrote to your houſekeeper, "as you deſired; directed her to put "the ſervants upon board wages; and "when ſhe wanted any money, to "apply to a friend of mine in Lon-

"don,

"don, whom I commiſſioned to ſup-
"ply her."

After thanking the vicar for his care, and the trouble he had taken, we went together to the manſion, when he gave me poſſeſſion of all the keys. In my uncle's cabinet I found near five hundred pounds in bank-notes and caſh, and a memorandum, ſaying that he had twelve thouſand pounds in the funds, and in what funds they lay. Having adjuſted every thing for the preſent, viſited the tenants, and left proper perſons in the houſe, I preſented Mr. Slaſh'em with a bank-note of two hundred pounds, for the trouble I had given him, which he modeſtly refuſed, but which I inſiſted on his receiving, and further promiſed, that if it was ever in my power to be of uſe to him, I ſhould neither forget it, nor omit it.

Before I left his houſe, he was very

anxious to know how I had diſpoſed of myſelf ſince I quitted his part of the world; and, conſidering him as my friend, I gave him a minute detail of every thing, except ſuch parts as related to his niece, who, I found, had been entirely diſcarded by the family. His brother, the doctor, was, I learned, ſtill at Hampſtead, and doing very well.

The vicar was wonderfully entertained with my hiſtory, but diſapproved much of ſome part of my conduct. However, he preſumed I had ſeen my error, and as now I was poſſeſſed of a good fortune, he flattered himſelf I ſhould live a more regular life. "This hiſtory of yourſelf," ſays he, "convinces me, that nothing is "like giving a lad a good education; "this will ſtick by him when every "thing elſe fails; enable him to ſur-"mount every difficulty, and carry "him

" him through life in ſpite of all op-
" poſition."

Upon examining the rental of my uncle's eſtate, I found it amount to a good four thouſand three hundred pounds a year; which, with the intereſt of twelve thouſand pounds in the ſtocks, the three hundred pounds a year I enjoyed from my wife, and my penſion, &c. I had an income equal to near five thouſand four hundred pounds a year.

I now ſet off for London, which I reached the next morning, and on my arrival at my own houſe, found every thing as I wiſhed it. My ſervants, poor ſouls, were as glad to ſee me as I was to ſee them. I told them how I had been trepanned, but not by whom; and that it was a chance of the higheſt improbability that ever they ſaw me again. They ſaid, the town was very ſilent then on the ſubject, for they had

heard nothing of it before. As to the lad that accompanied me to Finchley, I ſuppoſe they ſent him on board a man of war, for I never heard of him afterwards.

The firſt viſit I paid was to the Marquis of G. who received me very friendly, and to whom I related my ſtory, and that I meant to call Lord S. to a very ſevere account for his behaviour. His anſwer was, "That buſi-"neſs is already ſettled; Lord S. has "done it himſelf." I requeſted an explanation. He told me, that I was no ſooner ſeized, but that Lord S. called upon him, and boaſted of what he had done; ſaid, "he had you ſtop-"ped under a fictitious warrant, and "had tranſported you to Shetland; "for that after diſarming him, as you "had done in the affair of Hyde Park, "he could never brook the idea of "owing his life to you, and of courſe

"could

" could never bear to ſee you again;
" and that news arriving of the veſſel
" being caſt away, and the crew ſaved,
" he dreaded your return to town,
" and had accordingly put an end to
" his exiſtence with a piſtol. The
" matter," continued he, " as he is
" not miſſed, is not much talked of:
" it were better, therefore, to let it
" ſleep, as reviving it would be of no
" uſe to you, and may hurt the feel-
" ings of his family; who, notwith-
" ſtanding the faults of Lord S. is a
" very reſpectable one. As to his
" agents in this buſineſs, they are
" wretches below your notice, could
" not poſſibly owe you any ill-will,
" being villains that would be as ready,
" for a little money, to do as much for
" you as for him."

His lordſhip's arguments had their due weight with me, and I determined to follow his advice. Though I

execrated the conduct of Lord S, I dropped a tear at his fatal exit, and there the matter ended. How trifling a character is that of a man of faſhion, and how convinced muſt a perſon be, that he is a uſeleſs being in life, when he conſiders that at his death, he leaves a world that will not miſs him!

The marquis, among other things, told me, his Majeſty had appointed him prime miniſter, and he ſhould be happy if I would accept an office under him; that he was well acquainted with my abilities, and knew I ſhould fill my office well. I thanked his lordſhip for the honour he did me, and told him, that as I now ſtood ſingle in life, and had no domeſtic concerns to take off my attention, I would accept his offer. It was accordingly determined that I ſhould come into parliament; and though the miniſtry could have opened a borough for me, it was thought

thought proper that I ſhould try their intereſt in a neighbouring county then vacant by the death of one of the members. I was of courſe ſent down armed with all the powers of the treaſury; for though our prudent anceſtors found it neceſſary to curb the influence of the crown, by enacting a law, that none of its officers ſhould interfere in elections, yet matters are come to ſuch a paſs, that adminiſtration found it neceſſary to have as many voices in the houſe as they could acquire: for this purpoſe no money was ſpared, and every meaſure purſued that would defeat and evade the ſtanding laws againſt bribery and corruption. The misfortune ſeemed to be this: in the reign of King William, venality in parliament was unknown, every man voted as his judgment and conſcience directed him, and the miniſter could carry no meaſures of his own, unleſs they tended to

the general good. This did not agree with King William, who was an arbitrary prince, and of courſe found his ſituation ſo uneaſy, that he was once on the eve of returning to Holland in diſguſt, and would undoubtedly have done it, had not his miniſters continued to carry his favourite points, by bribing the parliament of thoſe times. Thus did that venality, to which the enormous debt of this nation is in a great meaſure owing, deſcend from the crown to the people; for in thoſe days it was found difficult to find repreſentatives; and the electors were obliged to court gentlemen to ſerve them. But when the members found they were to be rewarded for their votes, men were ſo eager to get into parliament, that they courted the electors, who, in their turn, expected to be paid for their ſuffrages; of courſe, the members of the lower houſe, in a

few

few years, could not obtain a ſeat but at great expence, and to reimburſe themſelves, made terms with the miniſter; and ſuch was the degeneracy of the times, that men would not vote, even according to their conſciences, without a bribe. This corruption ſpreading from the lower houſe to the upper, has occaſioned all the calamities under which this country labours; and whereas venality near a century ago deſcended, as I obſerved, from the crown to the people, it now riſes from the people to the crown. Under theſe acquired neceſſities it was that I was obliged to make my application. I was conſtrained to find various means of giving the electors what they are anxious to receive; but which they could not openly do without a breach of the law. I kiſſed the voters wives with guineas in my mouth, fed them with buttocks of beef, ſtuffed with quarter-

quarter-guineas; and though I ſat at the head of the table, and was cautious how I filled their plates; I was frequently called upon for a thicker ſlice, under a pretence, that when cut thin the meat taſted of the knife. I ſubmitted alſo to a thouſand indignities, greatly below the character of a gentleman, and did what, at another time, I ſhould have been heartily aſhamed of; and was often obliged to bear, with an apparent good-humour, the ſneers, the reproaches, and the inſults of the rabble. I have often thought how farcical it is that men, who pride themſelves on their diſtinction, ſhould ſtand aloof when ſpeaking to one of the lower claſs of people, and dread his approach as if his breath would contaminate them, and yet at elections will condeſcend to hug the greaſy rogues, and ſhake hands with every dirty fellow. It is plain, 'tis intereſt only

only that governs them; and where intereſt is the prevailing paſſion, they are not a whit better than the *canaille* they deſpiſe. It was my misfortune to be under the neceſſity of purſuing the ſame ſteps, though the caſe was ſomewhat different with reſpect to me. I had, through life, been obliged to lie down with wretchedneſs, and be familiar with beggary; of courſe I could take a drayman by the hand without being hurt, and conſider him as my brother only half removed, a man to whom Providence has aſſigned an office rather lower in life than myſelf, but alike important in ſociety. I was once preſent at the unclothing or *diſ-wigging* (if I may uſe a new expreſſion) of a Quaker, who was returned member for a manufacturing town in the north. Convinced that the fraternity would expel him their ſociety, from a conviction that one who

who would deſert *their* principles, could have none of his own; he ſubmitted to have his *full-bottom* conſigned to the flames, and his head to be covered with the more faſhionable *tye*. This was done in public, and with ſome degree of form. In an aſſembly of the people in the town-hall, the candidate having been uſhered in by the regalia of the borough, and a band of muſic, and ſeated in an armed chair, elevated above the heads of the people; a tye-wig was brought in upon a pole by the cryer of the ſeſſions, who was a barber of the town, and, after a flouriſh of trumpets, he was directed to announce as follows: "Ephraim Stiff-"rump, Eſq. having been returned "member for this ancient borough by "the unanimous ſuffrages of the ho-"nourable burgeſſes and freemen, has "thought proper to ſhew his gratitude "to his conſtituents, by a derelic-

"tion

" tion of his profeſſion; and as the " wig the Quakers wear, is, among " others, one badge of that profeſ- " ſion, he is determined to throw it " aſide, and cover his head with leſs " formality." Here was a loud huzza, accompanied with clapping of hands, and cloſed with another flouriſh of the trumpets. The mayor then, as returning officer, took off the member's *full bottom*, threw it in the fire, and put the other on his head. The honourable gentleman being thus metamorphoſed, roſe and bowed to the people, and with the loudeſt plaudits was uſhered out in the ſame manner as he was conducted in. In ſhort, what won't men ſubmit to when ſelf-gratification takes the lead?—To return, however, to my ſubject: I ſucceeded in my election, and obtained a ſeat in the houſe.

Being ſettled in my employ, the firſt

firſt ſatisfaction I derived from it, was, having it in my power to do a handſome thing by my friend the vicar. The marquis told me, about ſix months after I had been in office, that a rectory in the gift of the crown, and in the neighbourhood of my eſtate in Nottinghamſhire, of the yearly value of ſix hundred pounds a year and upwards, with a good houſe upon it, had fallen vacant, and that if I had any friend in that part of the world whom I wiſhed to ſerve, it ſhould be at my diſpoſal. I readily embraced the offer, thanked him for his politeneſs, and gave it to Mr. Slaſh'em, it being within diſtance, and tenable with the church he then held. This was the firſt good office of any magnitude that I had ever in my power to perform; and if it be not vanity to ſay it, I will own, that it gave me a ſecret pleaſure, and one ſo great, that

I pined

I pined for an opportunity of doing a ſecond. I am perſuaded, that thoſe who do good will believe the truth of this aſſertion, and think there is more real gratification in giving than receiving. With a heart warmed by love and gratitude, my friend Slaſh'em waited on me to expreſs his acknowledgments for the ſervice I had done him, and I felt at the moment all the ſelf-complacency which a favour cheerfully and unexpectedly beſtowed, and thankfully received, communicates to the feeling heart of the donor.

CHAP. XI.

Succeeds to a higher Office in Adminiſtration. On the Duty of a Miniſter. Concluſion.

WAS I to deſcribe to my readers the arduous taſk of the office I filled, I am perſuaded none of them would envy my ſituation. Beſides my official buſineſs, though I was ſaid to be the right hand of the miniſter, I was abſolutely his ſlave: I was expected to ſupport in the Houſe of Commons all he did, or wiſhed to do, without any concurrence of my own; and at times, when alone, was obliged, like a mercenary barriſter, to ſtudy for arguments to throw out in the Houſe, in defence of meaſures I diſapproved,

and

and which I inwardly condemned. My colleagues in office, the marquis would ſometimes ſmile and ſay, were not up to the taſk, and that adminiſtration could not do without me. To a good pair of lungs, Nature had beſtowed upon me a powerful harmonious voice, and bleſſed me with a ſtrong memory, beyond what men in general can boaſt of: as theſe are natural talents, I may mention them without vanity; and if I did not turn them to the beſt of purpoſes, it was, that I had accepted an office, I could not, for certain reaſons, immediately relinquiſh; and it fell to the holder of that office to ſupport the conduct of his employer; and, as there is always an oppoſition in parliament, and, I hope, for the good of this country, ever will, be the motives of that oppoſition what they may, it is neceſſary for men in office, if they wiſh to carry their

their point, to labour to overthrow thoſe arguments that are brought againſt them: ſometimes theſe arguguments are ſtrong ones, and require a great deal of fallacious reaſoning to combat; but whether a cauſe be right or wrong, the partiſans of oppoſition will cavil at it; they are there on purpoſe, and it is the buſineſs of adminiſtration to ſhew the abſurdity of ſuch cavilling. So little regard is paid to the abilities of repreſentatives, that the major part of them are very weak men, and are led away by the laſt ſpeaker; it is neceſſary, therefore, if poſſible, that men in office ſhould have the laſt word; and this is what I always contended for, under an idea of explaining. I was the only one in adminiſtration, they ſaid, that had temper and conſtitution enough to bear badgering, and believe me, I had enough of it. The marquis was a man

man that meant well, and was not without his ſhare of underſtanding; but he could not always carry things his own way: he was brought into the department he held by the party with whom he was connected, and on that account was obliged frequently to give up his opinion to their's; but as he was the oſtenſible perſon, it was my buſineſs, if poſſible, to eſtabliſh the rectitude of every meaſure he was obliged to eſpouſe, right or wrong. Under this idea, was a new office to be appointed for the purpoſe of gratifying a particular family or connexion, I was to juſtify the neceſſity of that office; if new works were to be erected, or new contracts entered into, more with a deſign to enrich the erector or contractor, than any public utility, I was to argue the matter down the throats of the yea-and-nay members; if the civil liſt was in ar-

rears, and money was wanting to diſcharge them, I was to ſhew the inadequateneſs of the eſtabliſhment to the expences annexed to it, that it was neceſſary the dignity of the crown ſhould be kept up, and that the arrears were unavoidable; if a negotiation abroad was to take place in behalf of any family alliance, or any favourite meaſure, I was to colour it in the beſt method I could, and give it an appearance of expediency; in ſhort, a reſpectable majority was to be carried upon every motion, and it reſted upon me to do it. It required ingenuity, it required labour; but I knew it was to be done, and never failed in the attempt: I made it a point to canvas the members where I had any doubt of ſucceſs; and when I found they were not to be brought over by argument, I had recourſe to temptation; and, as Sir Robert Walpole uſed to ſay, I found

man had his price. I have often thought, that was a member of the Houſe, who wiſhed to ſpeak, obliged to come forward and ſtand under a large extinguiſher, drawn up by a pulley, the ſtring of which ſhould be within the reach of the Speaker; he might, whenever he wandered from the ſubject, or was out of order, let it down upon the orator, and put out his light: it would ſave a great deal of wrangling; a great deal of that time which is now taken up in falſe logic and perſonal invective. But I beg the reader's pardon for this digreſſion. I carried on this diſagreeable buſineſs too long, and was at laſt determined, if I could not have ſome direction in political matters, not to be the ſlave of thoſe in power, and make my tongue always a traitor to my heart. My reſolutions on this head I communicated to the marquis; and my ſervices were

ſo uſeful, that I was appointed to an office that admitted me to the cabinet. This I found to be a cabal indeed, and his majeſty to be merely a cypher. Thoſe who would make the King of any conſequence, ſhould place him in ſome good office; thus would he ſoon be rich and powerful; whereas, as monarch, he is merely a tool. I felt for his ſituation, and in every thing there debated, where I could throw the weight into his ſcale, I did. Had the members of that cabinet been moderate and rational men, we might all have been unanimous; for as I had no meaſures to carry, but what were in my opinion conſiſtent with the public good, I never obſtinately contended in a bad cauſe; but every one did not think as I thought; and as I was of the King's party, as far as I could be with any propriety, and when I thought a meaſure wrong, did not eaſily give up my

my opinion, the cabinet was diſtracted, and I muſt either retire or they would; in a word, I was too powerfully ſupported not to keep my ſeat: the cabinet was diſſolved, a new adminiſtration formed, the different departments were filled agreeable to the marquis's wiſhes, he kept his ſituation, and we carried every thing our own way.

Whether things went on better now, I will not take upon me to ſay, but they went on much ſmoother. The marquis had no meaſures to guard but thoſe of rectitude; I was his right hand, as before: he left almoſt every thing to me, and when I ſtood up in defence of any ſtep, my tongue and my heart went together. I had no occaſion to ſpeak or write in defence of meaſures I diſapproved, nor employ the pens of others: but I found my office a very invidious one; every thing

I did was cavilled at; and from the number of appointments I had in my diſpoſal, I was haraſſed to death, and could ſcarce have the uſe of my own eyes or my own ears, but was always open to miſrepreſentation and deception. After holding my office for two years, I handſomely reſigned it, and retired from public buſineſs. The only advantage my office was to me (if it may be called an advantage), was the number of friends it procured me. For years before, I ſtood in the world without a relation, without a connexion: now I might have had as many as I pleaſed. Some introduced themſelves to me on a former acquaintance, but which I could not recollect; ſome as being ſchoolfellows or neighbours; and ſome as fellow travellers; and others would ranſack their genealogy, to find out ſome degree of kindred to me. All were aſſiduous to pleaſe me

all

all induſtrious to ſerve me; but I had then places and good things to give away. All this, however, was no gratification. I found the getting rid of the drudgery of franking as great a relaxation as any thing. Many a hot day have I ſlipped off my coat, and franked away as for life; and it was no ſmall vexation to think that I could not oblige my conſtituents, without giving my paſſport to ſuch a world of nonſenſe as my covers contained. But the greateſt pleaſure I received was in acts of benevolence. I ſeldom liſtened to the recommendations of this great man, or the remonſtrances of that (on which account I had many enemies), but gave what the marquis enabled me to diſpoſe of, as I conceived would beſt anſwer the deſign of the appointment, and do the moſt private good. I never amuſed a petitioner, as courtiers do, with falſe hopes and expectancies,

or buoyed him up with fallacious promiſes, which cruelly tend to make his diſappointment the greater: if I could ſerve him, and meant to do it, I always did; if I did not mean it, I frankly told him ſo. I ſtood in no danger of being ſerved as the commander in chief was by a lieutenant in the army, who had loſt his leg in the ſervice, and who had been warmly recommended to him for a company of invalids: he had amuſed this poor man for twelve months, and kept him in London at an expence he could not ſupport. The little money he had left was barely ſufficient to pay for writing his memorials. Quite wearied out with attending, he took an opportunity one day at his levee, as by accident, to tread upon this great man's corns with his wooden ſtump, and put him to exceſſive pain. Much concern was expreſſed at the accident, many ſubmiſ-

ſive

ſive apologies made, and the matter was forgiven, but not forgotten; for whenever this gentleman entered his levee afterwards, he took care to diſtinguiſh himſelf by ſtumping loudly acroſs the room, which always created an alarm; and leſt he ſhould tread upon the commander's toes again, he was preſently provided for. A man may deliver memorial upon memorial, plead ſervices till his heart aches, and never get attended to; whilſt another, through the intereſt of a great man's miſtreſs, ſhall be provided for expeditiouſly. We never ſuffered a perſonal application from any one, but gave it out that every petition ſhould be in writing; and to theſe was beſtowed a very nice attention; he who was thought beſt deſerving, and moſt adequate to the office to be filled, was generally preferred; but we frequently ſet aſide every applicant in favour of

modeſt

modeſt men of abilities; who, through want of connexions, had no friends to intercede for them, or whoſe merit had been too obſcured to be noticed by the public eye. The art of ſaying *no*, without hurting the perſon you ſay it to, is one of the firſt accompliſhments in life; few men know how to do it; and I would perſuade myſelf it ariſes from a good-natured diſpoſition, unwilling to refuſe what is aſked. It is related of the late D. of N. that he was ſo accuſtomed to promiſe, that no applicant whatever left his preſence without an aſſurance of having what he ſolicited; when at the ſame time his Grace ſcarcely knew what he had been aſked for. A neighbour of his, a major in the army, waited upon him on his return from abroad, where he had the misfortune in an action to loſe his leg: "My dear major," ſays his Grace, running up to him, and embracing him,

him, "I'm heartily glad to ſee you, I "hope all things go well with you."—"I can't ſay they do, my Lord Duke," returns he; "I've had the misfortune "to loſe my . . . ."—"Say no more, "my dear major," retorts he quickly; and ſtopping his mouth with his hand, and conceiving it to be ſome appointment which he had loſt, "ſay no more, "I intreat you, I'll give you a bet-"ter,"—"Better, my lord!" returns the major, "that cannot be."—"How "ſo? my dear friend, how ſo?" replies the Duke—"Becauſe," rejoins the major, "I have loſt my leg."—In the diſpoſal of what I had to give, I never beſtowed my favours where a large family and a ſmall income had not made ſome friendly aſſiſtance neceſſary, and where the duties of the office did not, according to the beſt of my judgment, point out the propriety of the beſtowal. Many a worthy

"heart

heart did I gladden, many a diſtreſſed object did I relieve, and many an oppreſſed family did I raiſe from the duſt: ſo that I might really ſay, in the language of the Patriarch, "When the "ear heard me, then it bleſſed me; "and when the eye ſaw me, it gave "witneſs to me, becauſe I delivered "the poor, the widow, and the fa-"therleſs, and him that had none to "help him." And herein I will boaſt no merit; I acted from a ſelfiſh principle; for when I relieved the diſtreſſed, and made the widow's heart to ſing for joy, I ſtudied my propenſities, and gratified *myſelf*.

Was every man in power to act as I did, he would be a great man indeed; they have ſuch numberleſs opportunities of doing good, that were they to embrace but a few, they would not only render themſelves popular, but be the admiration and idol of the multitude.

He

He who is a good miniſter will ſtudy the good of the ſtate; will fill the moſt important ſtations in all departments with men of ability and integrity, find them where he will, without regard either to riches, family, favourites, connexions, or parliamentary intereſt; will deſpiſe thoſe idle claims of rank or ſeniority, unſupported by ſervices, except where rank or ſeniority have an equal claim from genius, capacity, and virtue; will ſuffer no prejudice or enmity to bias him in ſuch appointments, but will employ even his enemies, if their ſervices can be uſeful to the ſtate, determined to diſtinguiſh himſelf by a rigid regard to religion, to honour, and his country.

Without ſuch integrity, aided by abilities, a miniſter muſt be a *curſe* to any nation; *with* ſuch integrity, aided by abilities, he muſt prove a *bleſſing*.

Such

Such a miniſter will conſider the intereſts of both prince and people as one. He will never gratify the wiſh of the prince at the expence of the people, nor humour the caprices of the people againſt the prerogatives of the prince; but will eſpouſe and ſupport the juſt claims of each. He will not maintain the prince in the violation of charters, nor in the infringement of thoſe ſacred laws to which the people look for ſecurity; nor will he encourage oppoſition, or countenance the people in factious or rebellious views. Having no other motive than the welfare of his country, if that cannot be brought about by ſuch meaſures as his heart approves, he will not ſtruggle for a continuance in power, but quietly and nobly reſign.

Upon reſigning my office, I gave up my penſion; and being in the prime of life, have married a young lady

lady of beauty of the firſt rank and family; with a fortune not inferior to my own, and a mind that does honour to her ſex. Retired from public buſineſs, I am ſet down quietly on my eſtate in the country, a favourite of fortune, and reſpected by my neighbourhood, where my friend the Vicar occaſionally makes up part of my family, and we enjoy all the bleſſings of domeſtic life.

THE END.

ERRATA.

Page 144, laſt line but two, *for* face, part appearing, *read* face appearing.

—— 158, line 4, *for* inſpires, people, *read* inſpires people.